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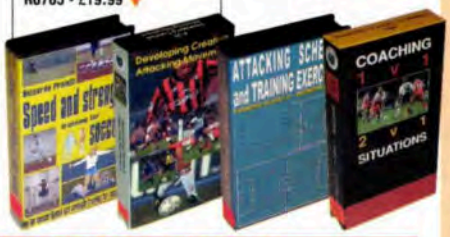

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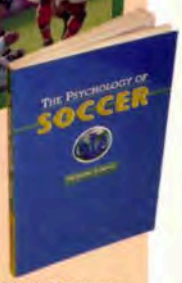

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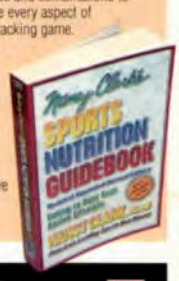

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November 1999

Despite his recently-improved financial status, reported on page 10, Alessandro Del Piero is unlikely to figure in our annual Player of the Year awards. After spending most of the year sidelined through injury, he can only look on as the likes of Rivaldo, David Beckham and Christian Vieri, interviewed on page 18, vie for the first big award of the season. Please take the trouble to vote for them (or anyone else) on page 5. And don't forget to register your views in the Team and Manager categories, too – after all, these are the only significant awards of their kind in world football.

The winners will be announced in our January 2000 issue. Next month, meanwhile, we publish the results of our Player of the Century poll in a special Millennium edition. The one-off cover price (£3.50) will allow our leading writers to review a century of soccer in a double-sized issue. Needless to say, subscribers will get their copies at no extra cost. See you then. **Gavin Hamilton, Editor** (gavin_hamilton@ipc.co.uk)

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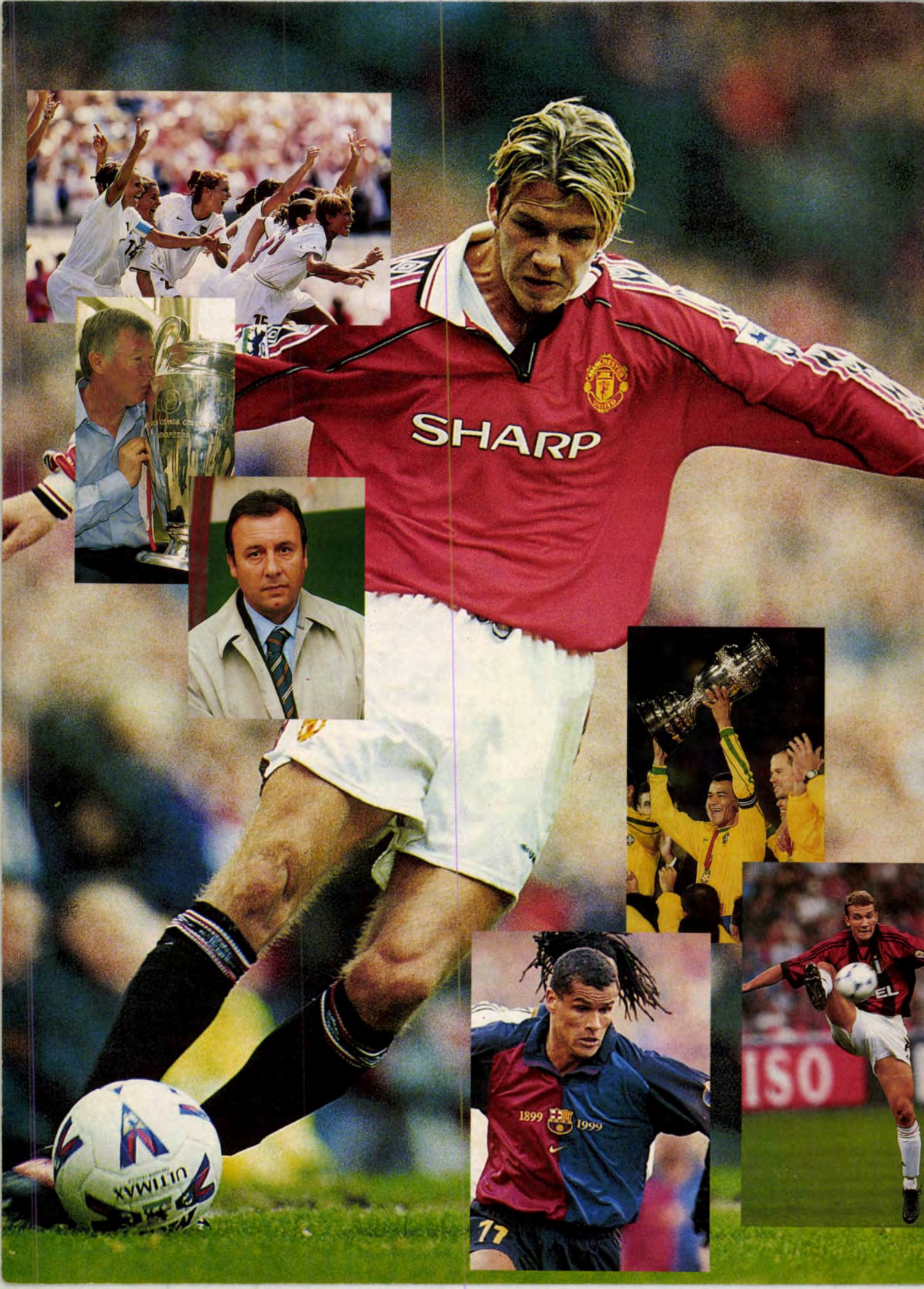
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WORLD SOCCER AWARDs'99

Over to you...

Your chance to pick the winners of the 18th **WORLD SOCCER** awards

NO BRITON has finished first in the *World Soccer* voting for Player of the Year. But now, in the 18th year of the award, David Beckham of Manchester United and England has a very good chance of topping the list.

Without Beckham's midfield skill, United almost certainly would have failed in their attempt to bring off the unprecedented treble of League championship, FA Cup and European Champions Cup last season.

Beckham is not without competition. Rivaldo of Barcelona and Brazil, for one. He has had a splendid year, winning the Double in Spain and inspiring his country to victory in the Copa America, the major international event of the past 12 months.

Andrii Shevchenko is another contender, having made a smooth start in the Milan attack after leaving Kyiv Dynamo.

Beckham even faces competition from his own team-mates. United players such as Roy Keane, Andy Cole, Dwight Yorke and Jaap Stam are all in with a shout.

France won all three *World Soccer* categories last year. Zinedine Zidane, hero of the World Cup Final, finished a comfortable distance in front of England's Michael Owen, the national team received an overwhelming vote in the team award, and Arsenal's Arsene Wenger narrowly beat national coach Aime Jacquet to the title of Manager of the Year.

That triple feat may well be repeated this time, for Manchester United must be the overwhelming choice as top team, and Sir Alex Ferguson could well become the first coach to win our award twice. His previous success was in 1993, but he has been very close on other occasions.

For the Team of the Year, United are likely to face competition from South American champions Brazil and the United States, winners of the Women's World Cup.

Ottmar Hitzfeld, coach of Champions League runners-up Bayern Munich, could take votes off Ferguson for the manager award, as could Alberto Zaccheroni, coach of Italian champions Milan, and Barcelona's Louis Van Gaal.

Britain is due for some *World Soccer* awards, for apart from Ferguson, only one British individual and one team have finished first. Terry Venables was manager of the year in 1985, but with a foreign club, Barcelona, and Everton took the team award in the same year, having won the Cup-winners Cup.

Now, as ever, it's up to you. Any player, any manager, any team. The choice is yours.

In the running...(clockwise from main picture) David Beckham, Brazil, Andrii Shevchenko, Rivaldo, Alberto Zaccheroni, Alex Ferguson, United States women's team

Votes are acceptable ONLY on this form (or a photocopy), complete with your name and address. Please use CAPITAL letters and send the form, so that it arrives by November 25 at the latest, to:

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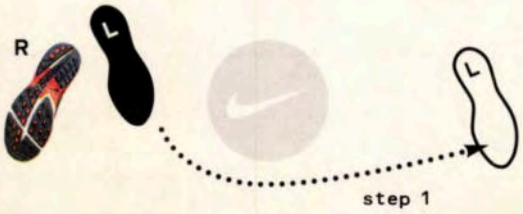
Fig 1
Watch Denilson confront the defender.

Fig 2
He steps over to the outside with his right Air Zoom Match-FIT lightweight training shoe. Note the excellent stability of the left shoe.



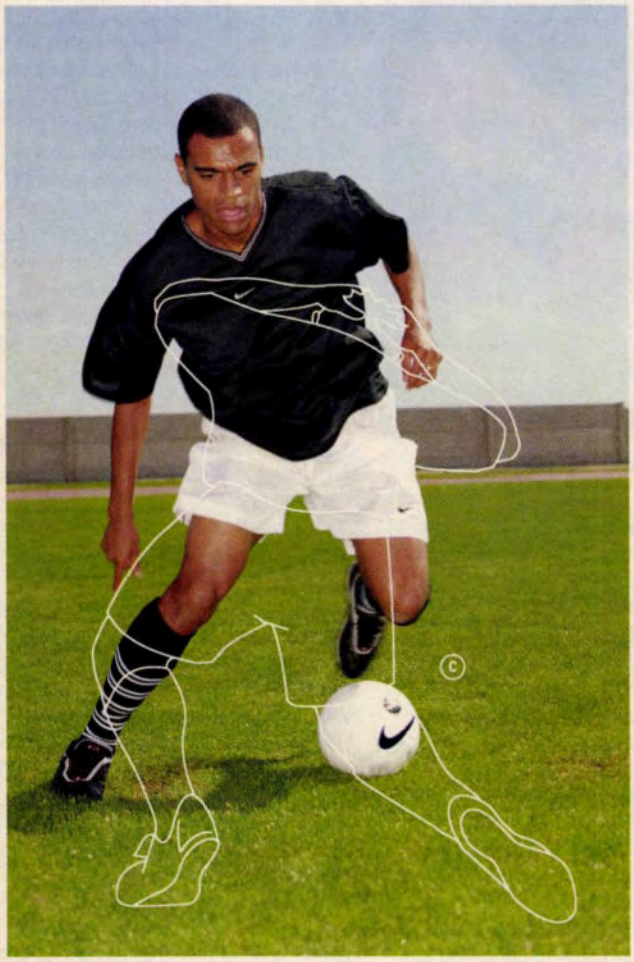
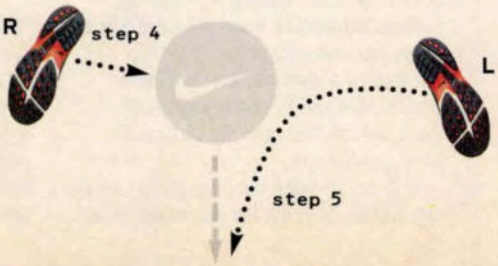


Fig 3

Then he steps over with his left foot before taking the ball away with the outside of his right Air Zoom Match-FIT shoe.

Fig 4

Repeat until your opponent reaches the illustrated state of dazed confusion. See (A) through (D).



Keir Radnedge
Executive Editor
COMMENTARY

More on the screen, fewer in the stands

No big deal...Real Madrid pulled in only 12,000 fans for their clash with Molde

The expanded Champions League, with its saturation TV coverage, may be a diet too rich for fans – and FIFA also has misgivings

TELEVISION figures are up and attendances are down – not by much but by enough to allow critics of the expanded UEFA Champions League a wry smile of satisfaction.

I have compared the first three match days of last season with this season's opening triple. Not the greatest scientific experiment of all time. But as a rough and ready guide to the most controversial event of the era it's intriguing – and it will be fascinating to see whether this early trend is maintained when we add up the figures at the end of this jam-packed campaign.

Michel Zen Ruffinen, FIFA's general secretary, blurted out at a Sportel symposium that the new Champions League was "a fiasco". It was an extraordinarily over-the-top comment from a man who generally prides himself on his restrained, some might say bland, approach to public discussion.

I understand that FIFA president Sepp Blatter was somewhat put out on learning of Zen Ruffinen's statement – after all, relations between FIFA and UEFA are delicate, to say the least, right now. But it is a fact that FIFA does not like the fixture proliferation and TV soccer saturation that have resulted from the Champions League expansion.

It is not so much the Champions League that worries FIFA but the way in which its demands force leagues and clubs to push domestic fixtures around to give participating teams and players breathing space.

High-level professional soccer is being played every night of the week somewhere in western Europe – and, most likely, being televised live as well. Once upon a time television showed only the cream of international club competition live. Now it wants to show every ball kicked. Certainly, that also reflects the explosion in television technology and the manner in which football has become fashionable.

Whether such saturation suits football in the long run is another matter. Initial statistics vis-a-vis this season's Champions League throw that issue into a more interesting light.

For instance, in the Big Six TV countries – France, Germany, Holland, Italy, Spain and the United Kingdom – TV audiences for live Champions League matches are up from an average of 52.3 million per match day last year to 58.3m.

Certainly, this season's Champions League contains eight more teams. But that is countered by the fact that most of the live TV on Tuesdays appears confined to the pay-TV areas where the audience figures are comparatively tiny. It is still the major players in the TV market – ITV in the UK, TF1 in France, TVE in Spain, for example – who pull in the big figures. On that basis it might also be suggested that going down the pay-TV road has not yet done the Champions League any promotional favours. TEAM, the agency that pulls all the TV and commercial aspects together for UEFA, has so far failed to issue any audience data at all for ONdigital in the UK.

The biggest matches remain as popular as ever. The top TV match in the first three match days last season was Bayern v Manchester United in the group stages, which attracted 17.4m viewers in the UK and Germany. This season Manchester United again lead the way with a remarkable 19.4m for their home game against Marseille.

When soccer pulls in those sorts of audiences in major nations, do not worry too much about the bubble bursting in the immediate future. There is certainly no evidence of that doomsday scenario yet.

Even goalscoring is up from a goal-per-game average of 2.61 in the first three match days last season to 2.68 this time. Ironically, this is assisted by one of the weaknesses most commonly seized on by Champions League critics – the admission of too many small, unfashionable clubs.

If Barcelona, Milan, Manchester United and Lazio were drawn in one group the safety-first, minimalist approach imposed by big-occasion nerves and financial expectancy would produce very few goals indeed. Therefore, it may be concluded that the goals ratio in the Champions League is on the up because the competition is bigger and the competitors weaker.

So what do fans want to see? Are they quite as ready now to spend big on watching their own team every match or is there so much soccer that they are beginning to pick and choose their games?

Evidence from Madrid, where a mere 12,000 turned out to see Real turn over Molde, suggests that is now the case. Soccer may be pulling in TV cash as never before but one consequence of so much TV football is that the fans, by watching it, are growing more discerning.

That may be why the average attendance is down from 39,722 last season to 34,900. Zen Ruffinen may have been over the top when he described the Champions League as "a fiasco". But first signs suggest that UEFA has not yet come up with a long-term answer to the questions being posed for soccer in the new millennium.

The signs are out for Rijkaard

FRANK RIJKAARD had better watch his back. The days when the likes of him, his boyhood pal Ruud Gullit and their entourage could walk on water have gone. No longer can they project that 'know-it-all' air which stemmed from the collection of individual, club and national team prizes.

Now, out in the cold world of soccer management, their judgment has been exposed to be as human as the next coach. Rijkaard, for example, may be wondering whether abandoning his career promoting his underwear company was a wise move.

Under pressure...Frank Rijkaard

Nobody expected he would stay away from soccer but maybe he came back too quickly.

Rijkaard, the former Ajax and Milan star, was parachuted into the job of Holland national boss just over a year ago after Guus Hiddink was lured away for a tension-packed six months at Real Madrid.

Yet Rijkaard had no coaching experience, not even a club job, behind him. Indeed, he had gained the necessary coaching qualification only a year earlier thanks to the fast-track process created by the KNVB for its finest old players.

He was then attached to Hiddink's World Cup staff, with special responsibility, unofficially, to keep the peace among the varied factions of the squad. Following Holland's fourth-place finish at France 98, Rijkaard was elevated to the top job ahead of senior assistant Johan Neeskens.

Such was Rijkaard's charisma that few questions were asked about the appointment of a novice ahead of possibly the most important competitive challenge in Dutch soccer history – when they co-host the European Championship finals.

Rijkaard insists he has no time to worry about such issues, and he is right. He dare not let himself look back over the 10 games with one win that preceded the recent friendly against Brazil. After all, if Euro co-hosts Belgium can change managers in mid-stream – replacing Georges Leekens with Robert Waseige – then Holland might be tempted to follow suit.

UEFA plays tit-for-tat

YET another European competition may be on the way – the European Nations Cup. Readers with long memories may know that this was the title afforded originally to the European Championship when it was launched in the late 1950s.

What UEFA has in mind is a single-match, direct elimination knockout competition which would take up many of the dates currently reserved for all those increasingly derided friendly matches. It also would take place in the non-European Championship years.

As a sop to the top nations, the likes of Germany, Italy, Spain, France and England would not enter until about the third round.

UEFA general secretary Gerd Aigner says: "Many of the national team friendlies now do not create any interest and have minimal value because the coaches cannot obtain the services of their best players. So the fans also stay away. We think this new competition may recreate some interest."

FIFA was not amused that UEFA sprang the idea on the game without running it by FIFA House first. But then that was UEFA's tit-for-tat reaction to the fact that it was not forewarned about FIFA president Sepp Blatter's biennial World Cup proposal.

Cunning plan...Gerd Aigner

Blatter says now that, as far as the World Cup every two years is concerned, he has put the paper in the safe, locked the door and thrown away the key. UEFA, hopefully, may do the same with its own latest wheeze.

Laugh along with Louis

LOUIS VAN GAAL has a sense of humour after all. With virtually all his players away recently on national team duty, he filled in the time by inviting 25 semi-fit and able Spanish soccer journalists to take part in one of his training sessions. I wonder if he will impose a media black-out?

Chew this one over

PARMA fans already are regretting the departure of Argentinian playmaker Juan Veron for Lazio. They were not too happy with the sale originally but suspected that the player had financial, rather than sporting, considerations uppermost in his mind.

Now, it is whispered, football and the player's ambitions may have had nothing to do with it. Or is it merely coincidence that Lazio owner Sergio Cragnotti and Parma owner Parmalat run companies with competing international ambitions in the dairy food markets?

strikes again

IBRAHIMA BAKAYOKO has always been one of those players on whom fans could never agree. As it was at Everton, so it remains at Marseille.

One man who believes that Bakayoko may not be all he seems is Frenchman Jean-Marc Guillou, coach of African Supercup winners ASEC of Abidjan and Ivory Coast technical adviser.

Guillou, a more than-useful playmaker in his time, has suggested the Ivory Coast do not send a team to the African Under-17 championship because they would not be playing on equal terms where age restrictions are concerned.

He says: "In Africa, playing tricks with players' ages is almost a rule. The trick suits everybody and everything – except football itself. A player such as Bakayoko was sold to Marseille originally with an age estimated at 23 when he was more likely 29 or 30 – he had been in the youth teams about 10 years before.

"The authorities have got to find a way to get to grips with this problem. When I organised youth competitions in the Ivory Coast I selected players according to their weight rather than what was claimed to be their age."

CNN WORLD SOCCER

CLUB OF THE MONTH

Del Piero: £90,000

...and that's just his wages. Paddy Agnew reports from Italy on football's biggest earner

"EVERYBODY is happy about Del Piero's new contract, but I'd say that the person most happy about it is Del Piero himself."

On the day last June that striker Alessandro Del Piero signed a new contract with Juventus, it was left to the club's honorary president and No. 1 fan, Gianni Agnelli, to supply the appropriate summary.

The new deal is indeed one to make Del Piero happy, being worth £3.6million a year – after tax. Given that he was already earning an estimated £3.3m via a variety of advertising, endorsement and other commercial contracts, it was hardly surprising that Italian journalists immediately wanted to know how he felt about being the "world's highest paid footballer".

Del Piero replied: "I don't know if I am the highest paid. It's not my habit to go looking into the pockets of others to see how much they earn. Anyway, every contract expresses a particular moment and context. Who knows? Perhaps, in a few years, contracts like mine will be much more common."

Who knows, indeed? One thing is certain, however, and it is that the club's determination to hold on to Del Piero was made doubly manifest not only by the size of the contract offered but also by the fact that the new deal was signed at the end of nine months of protracted negotiation, when Del Piero had been entirely absent from football because of a knee ligament injury sustained in a 2-2 Serie A draw with Udinese in November 1998.

Juventus, too, are a club with a reputation for off-loading big names. The list of players sold by the

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Ronaldo, Inter	£50,000
Juan Veron, Lazio	£48,076
Filippo Inzaghi, Juventus	£41,208
Alessandro Nesta, Lazio	£40,384
Gabriel Batistuta, Fiorentina	£34,615
Roberto Baggio, Inter	£34,340
George Weah, Milan	£34,340
Pavel Nedved, Lazio	£32,692
Oliver Bierhoff, Milan	£26,923
Francesco Totti, Roma	£26,923
Edgar Davids, Juventus	£26,923
Zinedine Zidane, Juventus	£25,000
Paolo Maldini, Milan	£23,076

ENGLAND

Alan Shearer, Newcastle	£28,000
Michael Owen, Liverpool	£24,000
Duncan Ferguson, Newcastle	£21,000
Chris Sutton, Chelsea	£21,000
Marcel Desailly, Chelsea	£20,000
Kanu, Arsenal	£20,000
Patrick Vieira, Arsenal	£20,000
Emmanuel Petit, Arsenal	£20,000
David Beckham, Manchester United	£17,500
Roy Keane, Manchester United	£17,500
Ryan Giggs, Manchester United	£17,500
David Ginola, Tottenham	£14,000
Dion Dublin, Aston Villa	£14,000
Les Ferdinand, Tottenham	£14,000

GERMANY

Stefan Effenberg, Bayern	£48,076
Krassimir Balakov, Stuttgart	£48,076
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Andreas Moller, Dortmund	£30,769
Ze Roberto, Leverkusen	£28,846
Fredi Bobic, Dortmund	£25,000
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Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink, Atletico Madrid	£44,230
Roberto Carlos, Real Madrid	£40,000
Raul, Real Madrid	£40,000
Jari Litmanen, Barcelona	£38,461
Ronald De Boer, Barcelona	£25,000
Frank De Boer, Barcelona	£25,000
Rivaldo, Barcelona	£25,000
Luis Figo, Barcelona	£25,000

FRANCE

Fabien Barthez, Monaco	£42,307
Sonny Anderson, Lyon	£26,923
Robert Pires, Marseille	£26,923
Marco Simone, Monaco	£23,076
Fabrizio Ravanelli, Marseille	£23,076
Ali Benarbia, Paris Saint-Germain	£23,076
Tony Vairelles, Lyon	£21,153
Jay-Jay Okocha, Paris Saint-Germain	£19,230
Florian Maurice, Marseille	£19,230
Bernard Lama, Paris Saint-Germain	£17,307

* All figures are *after tax* and are approximate due to fluctuating exchange rates. They do not include match bonuses, signing-on fees or endorsements.

TOP 10 STANDINGS

1	Manchester Utd	367pts
2	Barcelona	331
3	Lazio	239
4	Internazionale	220
5	Bayern Munich	182
6	Real Madrid	158
7	Milan	145
8	Boca Juniors	89
9	Bayer Leverkusen	57
10	Chelsea	54

a match

'Old Lady' in recent seasons reads like a Who's Who of top international soccer, including such as Christian Vieri, Gianluca Vialli, Roberto Baggio, Alen Boksic and Fabrizio Ravanelli, to name but the most obvious.

A number of factors obviously influenced the Juventus decision to make Del Piero the exception to the above 'off-loading' rule. For one, he is only 24 years old (25 on November 9) and can thus reasonably be expected to have the five or six best seasons of his career still in front of him.

For a second, Del Piero is nothing less than an Italian sporting icon. A failure to come to terms with him would have provoked outrage from the Juventus fans, while making a valuable, charismatic player available to championship rivals.

Not surprisingly, Del Piero looked particularly relieved when the white smoke finally emerged on June 29 from a conclave that had involved no fewer than 12 people at the negotiating table – Umberto Agnelli, Antonio Giraudo, Roberto Bettega, Luciano Moggi and Romy Gay for Juventus, Del Piero, his agents Claudio Pasqualin and Andrea D'Amico, and two other lawyers per party.

Del Piero's new contract runs from July 1,1999, to June 30, 2004, reportedly guaranteeing the player a total of £37m, pre-tax. In after-tax terms, this translates to approximately £18m for five years, or £3.6m a year. If he plays 40 matches this season, he will earn £90,000 per game.

Given Del Piero's 'standard bearer' status within Italian soccer, Juventus were at first tempted to buy out rights to his advertising/endorsement image.

Del Piero, however, already had a series of advertising and endorsement contracts; the most important are with Coca-Cola, Adidas, Walt Disney, spectacles manufacturers Luxottica, and the Italian Educational Institute, Cepu.

In the end, Juventus and Del Piero came to a joint advertising deal which guarantees the club the 'use' of Del Piero for club-related promotional purposes throughout the period of his contract while allowing for Del Piero's agents, APM (Avvocato Pasqualin Management) to continue marketing their 'product' as best they see fit.

Juventus, however, have reserved the right to 'oversee' any new promotional contract signed by Del Piero, reserving the right to make an alternative offer of similar economic dimensions and a similar product.

Juventus have also reserved the right to present new advertising/business proposals to Del Piero. If his backers accept the Juve-offered deals, then the club will take a 20 per cent cut of the contract in question. This particular clause looks like a good deal for the club, because the average commission taken by APM on Del Piero's commercial deals is estimated to be around six per cent.

Final thoughts on the new Del Piero contract come from the player himself who, when asked yet again how it felt to be so rich, replied: "Money is important because it helps you to live better, but there are lots of things in life that you simply can't buy."

Juve had a pay rise...Del Piero's wages and endorsements make him the world's richest footballer

Six of one and ten

Paul Gardner previews the forthcoming World Under-17 Championship

WORLD CUP play-offs have been a bit of a problem for the Asians lately. When FIFA denied them an extra slot for Japan/South Korea 2002, they threatened to boycott the whole thing. Then they agreed, reluctantly, to a play-off, but against a European team, not one from Oceania as they originally wanted.

Ironically, the Asians *did* get a play-off against Oceania in the Under-17 World Cup – but this time, they would have preferred to do without it.

This championship is the most democratic of the FIFA competitions, with three teams each from five confederations, plus one from Oceania.

This year there was a slight modification. New Zealand acting as hosts meant, as FIFA spokesman Andreas Herren pointed out, that the Oceania championship became rather academic: the winners would not take their place on the world stage as they normally do.

The answer: the Oceania winners would play-off with the third-placed team from Asia – Bahrain – who normally would have qualified directly.

The Aussies won so the Asians will have only two representatives, Thailand and Qatar. The same number as Oceania.

Past participant...Kanu conquered in 1993

Maybe there is some logic to that, but what on earth is one to say about the draw? The 16 teams in the tournament include six continental champions. There are only four groups (of four teams each), so these six teams, presumably the strongest, could not be kept apart. Two of the groups had to contain two champions. But there are no seeds, and just look at Group B, where *all four* teams are champions: Ghana (Africa), Spain (Europe), Mexico (CONCACAF), and Thailand (Asia). Talk about a Group of Death!

The situation gets even more mystifying because the other two champions, Brazil and Australia, are together in Group C, along with Mali and Germany. Which means that Groups A and D consist entirely of teams who finished second and third, plus hosts New Zealand.

This almost criminal lack of seeding could be excused only if there were any evidence that there is little to choose between champions and runners-up. But the results of the qualifying rounds suggests something very different. In three of them there were runaway winners. Brazil won the South American Final 5-0 against Paraguay; Mexico were clearly the class team in the CONCACAF zone, winning all three games with a 13-2 goal tally; and Spain posted a 26-2 goal record while winning all seven matches in Europe.

Spain would appear to be taking up where they left off two years ago in Egypt. Then they finished third and were easily the best of the European teams present. The others, Germany and Austria, both had a pedestrian, almost old-fashioned, look to their soccer. The huge individual-skill gap between Europeans and South Americans was brutally exposed in Brazil's 7-0 thrashing of Austria.

Brazil, who won the championship in 1997, are back, but Argentina did not make it, beaten out of the third South American slot by Uruguay. Nigeria, twice a winner, failed again to qualify, just as in 1997.

That leaves the USA as the only country to have played in all seven tournaments since 1985, though they haven't much to show for their devotion. In 1991 and 1993 they reached the second round, and that's all. This year it's supposed to be different. The current crop of youngsters is considered the best yet (two of them, Landon Donovan and Raul Palomares, have been signed by German clubs, and DaMarcus Beasley has signed with Major League Soccer), and the United States Soccer Federation has been sparing no expense in the team's preparation.

Since the beginning of the year, the players have been living together at a training centre in Florida. They have travelled widely and played over 50 games, which have included wins over England, Germany, Argentina and France.

The Under-17 World Cup is, in almost every way, the most *enjoyable* of the FIFA world championships, coming as it does without the circus atmosphere of the

Under-17 veteran...Argentina's Redondo

SCHEDULE

Group A.....New Zealand, Poland, Uruguay, USA
Group B.....Ghana, Mexico, Spain, Thailand
Group C.....Australia, Brazil, Mali, Germany
Group D.....Burkina Faso, Jamaica, Paraguay, Qatar

10.11.99 .....New Zealand v USA, Auckland
11.11.99 .....Ghana v Spain; Mexico v Thailand, Napier;
.....Uruguay v Poland, Auckland
12.11.99 .....Brazil v Australia; Mali v Germany, Christchurch;
.....Jamaica v Burkina Faso; Paraguay v Qatar, Dunedin
13.11.99 .....Spain v Thailand; Ghana v Mexico, Napier;
.....New Zealand v Uruguay; USA v Poland, Auckland
14.11.99 .....Australia v Germany; Brazil v Mali, Christchurch;
.....Burkina Faso v Qatar; Jamaica v Paraguay, Dunedin
16.11.99 .....Thailand v Ghana; Spain v Mexico, Napier;
.....Poland v New Zealand; USA v Uruguay, Auckland
17.11.99 .....Germany v Brazil; Australia v Mali, Christchurch;
.....Qatar v Jamaica; Burkina Faso v Paraguay, Dunedin

Quarter-finals
20.11.99 .....1....Winners Group A v 2nd Group B, Auckland
.....2....Winners Group B v 2nd Group A, Napier
21.11.99 .....3....Winners Group C v 2nd Group D, Christchurch
.....4....Winners Group D v 2nd Group C, Dunedin

Semi-finals
24.11.99 .....Winners QF 1 v Winners QF 3, Christchurch
.....Winners QF 2 v Winners QF 4, Auckland

Final and third place play-off
27.11.99 .....Auckland

of the other

bigger tournaments, without the strains and stresses of heavy security, with less media attention and less pressure. It is a tournament on a human scale, where everyone seems to be accessible and willing to talk.

Not yet, are these young players blasé about fame and fortune. The boys produce, regularly, memorable games, full of high-quality football. But there is another dimension to the boys' game, one that is rarely seen at the professional level these days. A dash of exuberance and – dare one say it? – fun.

Maybe that feeling of enjoyment and near-innocence will change. With each tournament, the number of scouts increases. There are agents gathering too. This is a measure of the way in which the signing age for players is getting younger and younger.

Even so, though finances begin to intrude, they do not dominate, and one is not constantly reminded that football is big business.

How could it be that way? Even finding a sponsor has proved difficult. The tournament, originally known as the Kodak Cup, then (since 1987) as the JVC Cup, is now the straightforward FIFA Under-17 World Championship. Assuredly, it is not a money maker. "That was never the idea," says FIFA's Herren. "The aim of the championship is to introduce young players to international competition."

French lesson...Petit gained valuable experience in 1987

This is laudable, of course – and it is logical to imagine that these under-17s will go on to fame and fortune. It's disconcerting then to find that very few of these boys do progress. The FIFA statistics for France 98 contain a list of players who had participated in previous FIFA competitions. There were 704 players in France and only 16 of them had played in past editions of the Under-17 World Cup.

This is not quite as bad as it sounds; of the 32 countries in the World Cup, only 17 had participated at Under-17 level. That reduces the eligible players to 17 x 22, which makes 374. Of those, 83 would have been too old to play in the first Under-17 tournament, in 1985, reducing the eligible total to 291.

So, of 291 senior players, only 16, or 5.5 per cent, graduated from Under-17 play. Maybe the percentage can be doubled – the tournament is staged every two years, always leaving a group of players too young or too old to compete.

Eleven per cent is actually a pretty good success rate when you take into consideration *all* 17-year-olds. But when you are dealing with national teams, supposedly the 18 best youngsters in Brazil or Germany or Italy, 11 per cent does not look so good.

For every Fernando Redondo (who played in the 1985 tournament), Emmanuel Petit (1987), Gianluigi Buffon (1993), Luis Garcia (1985), Claudio Reyna (1989), and Nwankwo Kanu (1993), there are 10 others for whom the Under-17 World Cup is likely to be the climax of their careers.

ESM ELEVEN

EUROPEAN SPORTS MAGAZINES — SEPTEMBER 1999

HOW THEY LINE UP

Abbiati (4 votes, Milan); Mihajlovic (3, Lazio), Stam (3, Man Utd), Maldini (3, Milan); Beckham (3, Man Utd), Emerson (5, Leverkusen), Almeyda (3, Lazio), Guardiola (2, Barcelona); Figo (5, Barcelona), Vieri (7, Inter), Rivaldo (9, Barcelona).

HOW THEY VOTED

A BOLA (POR)

Vitor Baia (Porto); Evanilson (Dortmund), Hierro (Real Madrid), Maldini (Milan), Georgatos (Internazionale); Figo (Barcelona), Scholes (Man Utd), Rivaldo (Barcelona), Savio (Real Madrid); Vieri (Internazionale), Giovanni (Olympiakos).

DON BALON (SPA)

Peruzzi (Internazionale); Nowotny (Leverkusen), Kohler (Dortmund), Sergi (Barcelona); Figo (Barcelona), Almeyda (Lazio), Rivaldo (Barcelona), Savio (Real Madrid); Cole (Man Utd), Shearer (Newcastle), Vieri (Internazionale).

FOOT (BLG)

Porato (Marseille); Reuter (Dortmund), Stam (Man Utd), Adams (Arsenal), Blanc (Internazionale); Figo (Barcelona), Emerson (Leverkusen), Veron (Lazio), Rivaldo (Barcelona); Trezeguet (Monaco), Vieri (Internazionale).

FRANCE FOOTBALL

Abbiati (Milan); Perez (Marseille), Amoruso (Rangers), Mihajlovic (Lazio), Tarnat (Bayern); Beckham (Man Utd), Guardiola (Barcelona), Emerson (Leverkusen), Rivaldo (Barcelona); Vieri (Internazionale), Morientes (Real Madrid).

GAZZETTA DELLO SPORT (ITA)

Vitor Baia (Porto): Salgado (Real Madrid), Mihajlovic (Lazio), Kohler (Dortmund), Maldini (Milan); Keane (Man Utd), Guardiola (Barcelona), Almeyda (Lazio), Figo (Barcelona); Vieri (Internazionale), Rivaldo (Barcelona).

KICKER (GER)

Abbiati (Milan); Perez (Marseille), Nesta (Lazio), Reuter (Dortmund), Georgatos (Internazionale); Figo (Barcelona), Emerson (Leverkusen), Almeyda (Lazio), Rivaldo (Barcelona); Yorke (Man Utd), Vieri (Inter).

SPORT (SWI)

Abbiati (Milan); Reiziger (Barcelona), Stam (Man Utd), Mihajlovic (Lazio), Roberto Carlos (Real Madrid); Emerson (Leverkusen), Luis Enrique (Barcelona), Keane (Man Utd), Rivaldo (Barcelona); Ali Daei (Hertha Berlin), Yorke (Man Utd).

VOETBAL INT (HOL)

Abbiati (Milan); Nesta (Lazio), Stam (Man Utd), Leboeuf (Chelsea), Esquerdinha (Porto); Beckham (Man Utd), Guardiola (Barcelona), Gallardo (Monaco), Rivaldo (Barcelona); Vieri (Internazionale), Carew (Rosenborg).

WORLD SOCCER

Peruzzi (Internazionale); Lassissi (Parma), Frank De Boer (Barcelona), Soldo (Stuttgart), Maldini (Milan); Beckham (Man Utd), Emerson (Leverkusen), Gallardo (Monaco), Rivaldo (Barcelona); Shearer (Newcastle), Ali Daei (Hertha Berlin).

Libero ROUND-UP

COACHES ON THE MOVE

Zenga ousted by Revolution

On his way...Walter Zenga

FORMER Italy keeper **Walter Zenga** was fired as player/coach of New England Revolution after the club rejected his demands for a mid-season contract extension. Zenga's temporary replacement is ex-Scotland defender **Steve Nicol**.

Colombian **Francisco 'Pacho' Maturana** has taken over as national coach of Peru, replacing Juan Carlos Oblitas.

Mallorca have named former Oviedo boss **Fernando Vazquez** as coach after the Spanish federation ruled that Argentine **Mario Gomez** was not qualified for the job.

Former Bulgaria forward **Hristo Stoichkov** has been appointed assistant to the head coaches of the country's senior and Under-21 teams.

Cagliari fired Uruguayan coach **Oscar Tabarez** after the club took just one point from their first four games.

Daniel Leclerq, who led Lens to the French League title in 1998, was dropped as coach because of reported poor relationships with his players.

Sporting Lisbon fired Italian coach **Giuseppe Materazzi** following defeat in the UEFA Cup by Viking Stavanger. Former Sporting player **Augusto Inacio** was named as caretaker boss.

Ex-PSV player **Rob MacDonald** has succeeded Frans Thijssen at Dutch side De Graafschap.

Georges Leekens took over at Lokeren just weeks after being fired as coach of the Belgian national side. He replaces **Willy Reynders**, sacked after just two games – both defeats – of the season.

Leekens' compatriot **Rene Taelman** has succeeded Frenchman **Didier Notheaux** as national coach of Burkina Faso.

Miloljub Ostojic resigned from his post at Red Star Belgrade after his side's 1-0 UEFA Cup first round, first leg defeat by Montpellier.

Kestutis Latozha quit as national coach of Lithuania a week after being sacked by his club side, champions Zalgiris Vilnius. Latozha has been replaced at Zalgiris by his assistant, **Eugenijus Riabovas**.

Former Belarus national coach **Sergei Borovsky** took temporary charge of the side after **Mikhail Vergeenko** was sacked ahead of the Euro 2000 qualifier against Italy.

Shakhtar Donetsk's UEFA Cup defeat by Roda JC was swiftly followed by the resignation of coach **Anatoly Byshovets**, the former Russia national boss.

Algeria's national coach **Rabah Madjer** quit on national TV following a row with the country's Youth and Sport Minister.

PLAYERS STAYING ON

LAZIO centre-back **Alessandro Nesta** has extended his contract with the club until 2004.

Also staying on until 2004 is **Trevor Sinclair**, the West Ham midfielder.

INTERNATIONAL INS AND OUTS

Ukraine adopt Russian trio

THREE Russia-born Kyiv Dynamo players – **Sergey Kormiltsev**, **Sergey Serebrenikov** and **Artem Yashkin** – have taken Ukrainian citizenship and are available for selection by the national team.

Injury to Valencia keeper Santiago Canizares opened the door for Valladolid's **Cesar Sanchez** to receive his first call-up to the Spain squad.

Georgi Demetradze was dropped from the Georgia squad to face Albania by Dutch coach Johan Boskamp after saying he would prefer to see a Georgian in charge.

Finland coach Richard Moller Nielsen left Rangers keeper **Antti Niemi** out of his squad for the Euro 2000 match against Northern Ireland.

TRANSFERS

		FROM	TO
Abel Xavier	M	PSV Eindhoven	Everton
Martin Andresen	M	Stabaek	Wimbledon
Ibrahim Ba	M	Milan	Perugia (loan)
Oumar Barro	F	Mamelodi Sundowns	Brondby
Gary Charles	D	Benfica	West Ham
Christophe Cocard	F	free agent	Kilmarnock
Giuseppe Colluci	M	Roma	Bordeaux
Joe Didulica	G	Melbourne Knights	Ajax
Alan Fettis	G	Blackburn Rovers	Leicester (loan)
Kevin Gallacher	F	Blackburn Rovers	Newcastle
Tommy Johnson	F	Celtic	Everton (loan)
Juninho	M	Atletico Madrid	Middlesbrough (loan)
Mikhail Kavelashvili	M	Manchester City	FC Zurich
Michael Konsel	G	Roma	Venezia
Carlos Arturo Marinelli	M	Boca Juniors	Middlesbrough
Alberto Mendez	M	Arsenal	Unterhaching (loan)
Charlie Miller	F	Rangers	Watford
Daniel Montenegro	M	Huracan	Marseille
Domenico Morfeo	M	Fiorentina	Cagliari
Luis Oliveira	F	Fiorentina	Cagliari
Carlton Palmer	M	Nottingham Forest	Coventry (loan)
Jan-Ove Pedersen	M	Brann Bergen	Bregenz
Bruno Rodriguez	F	Paris Saint-Germain	Bradford
Mickael Silvestre	D	Internazionale	Manchester Utd
Argemiro Veiga	M	Le Havre	Servette (loan)
Nordin Wooter	F	Zaragoza	Watford

OUT OF ACTION

Ruiz Diaz on the run

PARAGUAYAN goalkeeper **Ruben Ruiz Diaz** has quit Argentinian club Estudiantes de La Plata as a result of death threats and is back in Asuncion.

Liverpool forward **Robbie Fowler** could miss two months after undergoing ankle surgery, while West Ham and England defender **Stuart Pearce** is likely to be sidelined for several months after cracking a bone in a leg.

Another long-term absentee is Kyiv Dynamo's Belorussian midfielder **Valentin Bialkevich**, who has had surgery on a groin injury.

In Bulgaria, Belasitsa captain **Engibar Engibarov** was handed a 10-match ban for butting Lokomotiv Sofia's Dobromir Mitov.

Former Marseille keeper **Pascal Olmeta,** who played in the 1991 European Cup Final, has announced his retirement, while Ajax and former Holland keeper **Stanley Menzo** has also quit the game, because of knee problems.

OTHER NEWS

THE French Football Federation will not punish Marseille forward **Christophe Dugarry**, despite the fact that he tested positive for the banned anabolic steroid nandrolone. The FFF said that the doctor who conducted the test, following the League game between Marseille and Lyon in April, was not qualified to do so.

New coach...Hristo Stoichkov

The Belgian FA has reduced the life ban on Manchester United's **Ronnie Wallwork** to one year and the one-year ban on fellow United player **Danny Higginbotham** to four months. The punishments were imposed after their alleged involvement in incidents with the referee following a game while on loan to Royal Antwerp.

Brazilian **Edmundo** was reported to have gone missing after his appeal against a four and a half year prison sentence for his part in a fatal car crash was rejected by a court in Rio de Janeiro. The controversial Vasco da Gama forward was sentenced in March following the crash in December 1995 in which three people died. (*For more on Edmundo, see page 68.*)

OBITUARIES

- **Vasily Trofimov**, the former Moscow Dynamo player, has died aged 80.
- **Peter Nyama**, who played for both his native Zimbabwe (then Rhodesia) and Malawi, has died at 52.

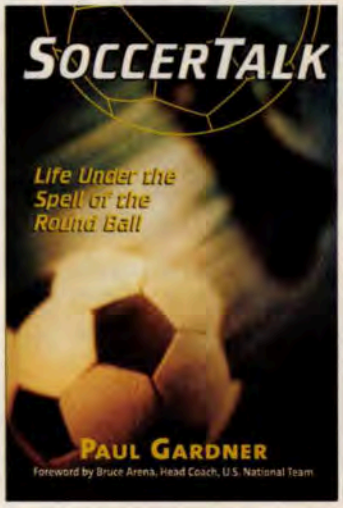
The monthly column rounding up the best (and worst) in football publishing

BOOK OF THE MONTH

SOCCERTALK

by Paul Gardner

(MastersPress, USA, $14.95)



FIRST, an interest has to be declared. Paul Gardner, who was born in England and has lived in New York City for 40 years, is *World Soccer*'s correspondent in the USA. He is a big man with a build like a medium-sized bear and a wit like a wasp, whose calls often light up the dullest of days.

***SoccerTalk* is his fifth book, following one with Phil Woosnam, the former West Ham and Wales forward who became a big figure in US soccer, one with Pele, an Intelligent Fan's guide to the game and a book about nice guys finishing last.**

I have not read any of them, but I have more than a sneaking suspicion that I ought to, especially the one about the nice guys; another author, Mihir Bose, read it years back and says that if it's not a classic, it ought to be.

The latest Gardner is a collection of some of his writing in reasonably recent times, mostly from the US magazine *Soccer America*, but with a few articles from English publications.

He reveals his love of old-fashioned dribbling and his hatred of new-fangled shoot-outs. He yields to nobody in his admiration of coaches, while pointing out that over-coaching is the worst of footballing fates. And he visits such soccer outposts as the Tahuichi youth academy in Bolivia and a monster soccer convention in Washington DC that had me laughing out loud.

Individually the articles stand alone, as pertinent comments on matters of the day at that time; together they form a lovely collection from a fine writer whose love for soccer shines through and keeps shining through, no matter how hard his road may be in that enormous country where our game, the game, is still struggling to make its mark.

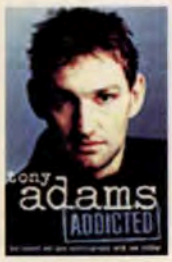
Unpaid soccer thrives in the States, and Gardner is one of its biggest fans. Minors, juniors, schoolkids, college boys – he supports them all. What's more, he goes to see them, and writes about them. All that is fine – it's the pro game that is the problem.

But there is always hope. There has been hope of US pro soccer – big, well-organised, well-attended, US soccer – for over half a century and more. And it may still happen yet.

If it does then hopefully Paul Gardner, with his eye-on-the-ball coverage, his sharp assessments and his comical comments, will still be around to take his well-deserved share of the praise.

David Prole

● **World Soccer** ***readers can purchase*** **SoccerTalk** ***at a special discount price through the Football Book Club.*** ***See page 83.***



ADDICTED

by Tony Adams, with Ian Ridley

(CollinsWillow, £6.99)

THIS book was first published last year, in hardback, and is now out in a cheaper version, no doubt gaining more plaudits for its "self-lacerating honesty", as *The Times* reviewer wrote.

It certainly is hard to put down, and Adams deserves credit for going along the dreadfully difficult road to redemption first trodden, in football boots, by Jimmy Greaves (strangely unmentioned in the 384 pages).

But warming to Adams is difficult. He is an extremely self-centred centre-half whose whinges almost match the binges.

The references to his wife, from whom he is now divorced, are seldom, and generally of a slighting nature; his children barely mentioned until the book is almost over.

Adams' parents and sisters fare almost as badly. He complains because only 12,348 turned up for his benefit match, and because Arsenal fined him a fortnight's pay after he had been jailed for drunken driving (he served 58 days, and surely the club had a moral right to fine him for the lot).

There are other moans and groans about club and England officials and players, and a surprising admission that an injured Adams departed from last season's FA Cup-tie against Sheffield United before the end and missed the 'unfair goal' incident that led to the replay. "I had left early to avoid the traffic and was probably on Putney Heath walking the dog," he writes.

To get from Highbury to Putney must have taken Adams quite a while, even if he had been driving at the speed he showed on that infamous occasion when he moved a wall back 10 yards. The other Arsenal players merited better support than that.

David Prole

A GAME OF TWO HALVES?

Edited by Sean Hamil, Jonathan Michie and Christine Oughton

(Mainstream, £15.99)

THIS gets off to a poor start. The first sentence, written by Alex Ferguson in the foreword, says: "There is no doubt that football is now big business" – as indeed it has been since before Sir Alex chewed his first stick of gum.

He might have written, with greater accuracy, that football is now enormously big business, arguably bigger than its place in society deserves.

The book, subtitled 'The Business of Football', also suffers from the absence of photographs, and in parts the words 'dull' and 'ditchwater' come to mind. Overall, though, it's a very entertaining and informative read.

The various authors, whose work has been pulled together by the three on the cover, look at where the money comes from and where it goes, how football is and should be administered, where the game came from and where it is going.

Thankfully, the fans get a say, notably the Geordie who pertinently responded to a soccer and shopping comparison drawn by Newcastle's managing director by saying: "I don't pay £340 for a season ticket to go to Safeways."

The book also does something I thought impossible – it makes me look slightly more favourably on David Mellor.

Overall, *A Game of Two Halves?*, written by academics for the fan on what used to be the terraces, deserves more readers than it is likely to get.

David Prole

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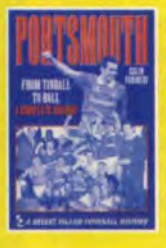

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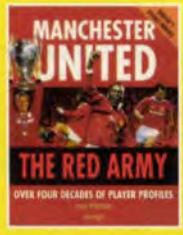

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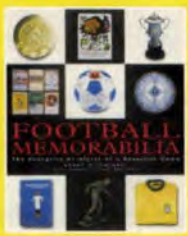

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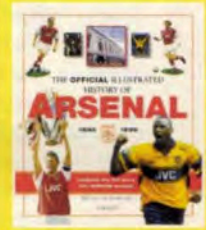

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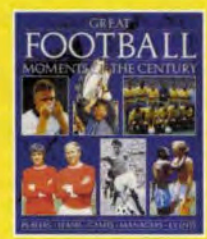

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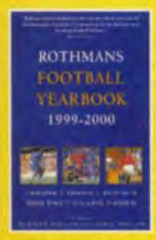

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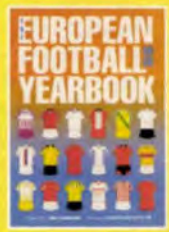

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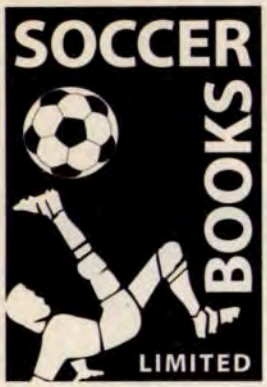

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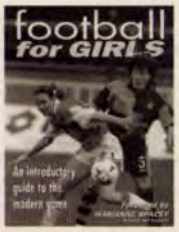

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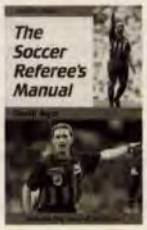

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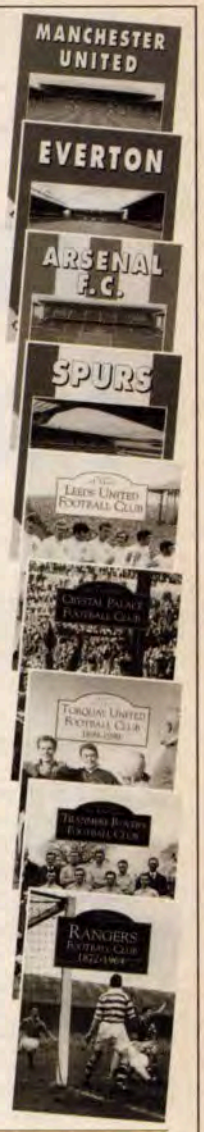

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Christian Vieri

'Every day, in every way, I try to get better'

The world's most expensive player talks to Dominique Antognoni

WORLD SOCCER: Where shall we start? With the 90 billion lire [£31million] Inter have paid for you?
CHRISTIAN VIERI: I don't really make a big deal of it. When I go out on to the pitch I don't think about how much I earn or things like that.

But it must put even greater pressure on you.
But I never, never think of those matters – I didn't when I went to Atletico Madrid for 30bn lire [£12m], and not even when I went to Lazio for 50bn [£18m], so it still doesn't matter to me now that I've arrived at Inter for 90bn.

Tell us once and for all, why did Lazio let you go?
Simple. [President Sergio] Cragnotti sold me to make money. He bought me for 50bn lire and sold me for 90. It's a very difficult thing to say no to an offer of that kind. What I didn't like was that he criticised me, I think simply to justify his decision to the fans. It would have been better for him not to attack me as a person, especially since he doesn't even know me – in a whole year, we met only once.

'Lippi rang and said: "You will be happy if you come to Inter." I said yes right away'

Are you sorry to have left Lazio?
To be honest, yes, because we were building up a great team, and I was also sorry to leave my fellow players Mihajlovic, Pancaro and Negro.

But why did you choose Inter?
Because it is a great club, because [president Massimo] Moratti and [coach Marcello] Lippi really want to win – they chose me and that makes me feel proud. I wanted to play for a team that hadn't won much in recent years, to rekindle its passion. You can tell a great club from the smallest of details, like the way they protect you. At the end of the day, that's what a player asks for from a club: protection. But in answer to your original question, the main reason I came to Milan was Lippi.

Was it he who convinced you to come?
Yes, he rang and said: "You will be happy if you come to Inter." I said yes right away.

But you had had a falling out with him at Juventus.
I have a big failing: I talk too much. Yes, it's true, we did fall out, but on the same day we went for a meal together, and the argument was forgotten. I prefer people who say whatever they need to say to your face, openly and frankly.

Juve let you go, yet every year they've tried to get you back.
Yes, one month after I left for Spain, they tried to get me back to Turin. Then, a year ago, before I went to Lazio, they tried again. Then again before I signed with Inter, but by then I had already committed to Moratti and I wouldn't go back on that. I was grateful to Juve; they valued me. I grew up there – when I arrived I was only a 23-year-old kid. They sorted me out technically and tactically. With hard work, I got results. They made me appreciate how good it is to be on the way up, to win. Sure, when I moved to Lazio there was the downside of not playing with Inzaghi and Zidane, who called me every day in Rome. Now I'm teamed with Ronaldo, the stuff of dreams, a fantasy scenario – the sort of thing I couldn't have imagined not so long ago.

Who's the strongest, you or him?
He is, he's number one, without a doubt. I still have so much to learn. I must improve, I came to Inter just to do that – to get better.

But Ronaldo has barely played in recent months.
He just needs a little time to get his fitness back. Be patient.

When he played for Brazil he was booed.
That's football. I'm sure he realised that – he's a bright boy. It's absurd – just a little while ago he was considered the greatest in the world.

So, Ronaldo-Vieri – is that the greatest pairing in the world?
Yes, even though Del Piero-Inzaghi take some beating. But great pairings don't make a great team. To win, you need a solid group. And Inter is building such a team.

So do you like the new Inter?
Very much. We are developing something important. We all believe in Lippi's project – it just needs a little patience.

And the Golden Ball – what about winning that?
Yes, I'd hope to, I'm only human, aren't I? Beckham has won everything with Manchester United, but I have also brought home a continental trophy – the Cup-winners Cup. Now that I'm playing with Inter I have a much higher profile – the whole world is watching. And I've always scored as part of the national team.

With the national team, everyone always talks about the pairing of the two friends, Vieri and Inzaghi.
We're inseparable. And every time we play together, we score.

And now Del Piero is back.
So what? I don't see that that means we have to separate. We have always scored, things work as they are, so why not leave them alone?

The national side slipped up against Denmark.
Sure, but they had their minds on something else. We are still the best team in the world.

Are you sure of that?
More than sure. We have the best goalkeeper in the world (Buffon), the best defenders (Maldini, Nesta, Panucci, Cannavaro), the best attacking players (Inzaghi, Del Piero, Totti), and the midfielders too.

Are you going to be top scorer this season?
Perhaps, but I don't take penalties. However, it doesn't matter if I score 20 or 15 goals – what's important is the team.

Lippi says that your best quality is your generosity as a player.
I'm happy to hear that's what he thinks. But it comes easily to me to help out a team-mate. Goals

are not an obsession with me; they're important, sure, but having the team win counts for more. A lone player cannot win the championship, so he has to think only of the team.

Lippi also speaks of your continual improvement.
Look, I know that I still have to get even better. Every day, in every way, I try to do that. If one wants to improve, it's best to do it steadily. The secret, as far as I am concerned, is to enjoy even the less glamorous aspects – I even enjoy doing the warming up, though that can be dull.

When you first started playing did you ever think you would reach this level?
You have a dream – you imagine yourself becoming great, then, day by day, you learn that you are capable of more and more things, and you want to get even better than that. I found myself improving year after year, and I never put limits on myself.

Who are your idols?
Maradona is the greatest of them all. It's a shame it's all over now – Napoli just didn't know how to protect him. Society should learn how to nurture its champions, to protect them from themselves as much as from anything.

Do you have a message for the fans?
That you can play well or play badly, but you must always show commitment on the field. I always try to give my all.

In eight years you have changed teams eight times.
Pure chance. And if you check the records, you'll see I wasn't the only one to do this.

But do you want to stay in one place or not?
Yes, I'd like to stay put. I may want to do that but first of all it's vital to do my best work. But I have travelled since I was a child so there aren't any problems on that score. At 14 I came to Italy from Australia and I cried all the time. I stayed with my granny but I called my dad every day and asked him to bring me home. The best thing was that when I did go back I immediately wanted to return to Italy.

But what if another club wanted to buy you?
No, no, I think it would be impossible to buy me from Inter.

Giovanni

Home from home

The Brazilian midfielder couldn't be happier in Athens

Essential reading...Giovanni (right)

FROM THE Spanish League and Barcelona to Greek club Olympiakos. That was the move made by Brazilian Giovanni – full name Giovanni Silva Da Oliveira – during the summer. He talks to Soulis Theodosiou and Lou Economopoulos about the move, his hopes, his footballing life in Brazil, Spain and now Greece.

WORLD SOCCER: Why did you leave Barcelona for Olympiakos?
GIOVANNI: It was a difficult decision, but Olympiakos made a very good offer, I had some problems with the coach at Barça [Louis Van Gaal] and so I decided to go. I knew that Olympiakos had been champions in the last three years and that last season they had a very good Champions League run. I believe we can do that again this season.

Did you see the Olympiakos move as a chance to return to the Brazil side?
The Brazil coach [Wanderley Luxemburgo] knows me, he knows what I can do and you don't have to be at a club like Barcelona to play for the national squad. But you have to be playing regularly, to be on good form, and to score goals. If I play well with Olympiakos, then I can expect to be recalled to the *selecao*.

Olympiakos expect a lot from you, as an expensive signing. Do you feel extra responsibility?
Yes, I have responsibility but I don't have stress. I will not win the games on my own and I will not lose them on my own. Of course I will try to do my best, but everyone has to do the same.

Some people say that you are the best foreign player ever to join a Greek club. What do you say?
It's flattering, but it's something for the fans and for the media. I don't think about it. I only know that I'm here at a new beginning in my life, at the age of 27, and I want to do as much as I can to help the club and their fans. Things have gone pretty well for me in Greece, so far. I'm allowed to move freely, to different positions, which is what I like. I was born to play soccer, not to sit on the bench. If I don't see and hear the fans, I don't feel well!

Pele was the one who suggested that Santos sign you from Sao Carlense, and he made some very kind comments about you. What does that mean to you?
It's a very big honour that Pele believed in me – and he also helped Santos to pay for my transfer. He is a very good person and has helped Santos very much. I had two years there before going to Barcelona, and scored 24 goals in one season, winning Brazil's Golden Shoe.

Games between Barcelona and Real Madrid are always big affairs. How were those games for you?
It's a very big event for all Europe when Barcelona play Real. I am very satisfied that I played and scored in some of those games. Now, with Olympiakos, I have been lucky enough to continue scoring against Real in the Champions League [two goals in a 3-3 draw, followed by two more in the 3-1 win over Molde].

Olympiakos coach Dusan Bayevic said that you were "fantastically good" against Real Madrid. John Toshack said that you were the best player against his team.
That's very complimentary – but I would rather I had not scored and we had won the game.

Can Olympiakos qualify for the next round in Europe?
Real Madrid are favourites in the group, but the favourites do not always win. It depends what you do on the pitch, not on your name. Don't forget that Barcelona have not gone past the first round of the Champions League in any of the last three seasons, whereas last year Olympiakos got to the quarter-finals and gave Juventus a lot of problems.

Is there much difference between soccer in Brazil and in Europe?
In Brazil soccer remains very technical, very artistic. In Europe, strength and speed have the major roles. But the views of coaches around the world are becoming more synchronised, more similar. I believe that the union of the two big schools of soccer, South American and European, will some day provide an ideal style of play.

Fabio Cannavaro

Looking and learning

Keir Radnedge charts the Parma and Italy defender's route to the top

FABIO CANNAVARO is one of the outstanding defenders in Italy and in Europe. But then, so he should be. After all, Parma's 26-year-old central defender knows more than most about the tricks of the trade employed by the world game's greatest attackers.

Indeed, nobody could have had a better view from which to admire, learn and understand precisely how forwards go about their job.

Cannavaro's great pride, when he looks back over his career, is not so much the UEFA Cups and domestic trophies picked up with Parma, but in the memories of his years learning from the likes of Diego Maradona and Antonio Careca. For Cannavaro was a ball boy at Napoli at the height of Maradona Mania in the mid-1980s.

Cannavaro and his fellow ball boys were starstruck. He recalls: "I was 11 when the door to our dressing-room flew open and Maradona strolled in with a football tucked under his arm. He looked at me and then at the others, all kitted out for the match, and laughed and said to us: 'Show me what you can all do, then.'

"He juggled with the ball as only he could. Then he passed it among us and watched us kicking it around. For an 11-year-old, can you imagine what that was like? Incredible – and that's only the half of it!"

Cannavaro, born on September 13, 1973, was brought up in Naples, a port like no other in Italy and from which millions of emigrants sailed to South America and what they hoped would prove a better life at the turn of the century.

For Cannavaro, there was no need to leave Italy to find a better life. All it took was a footballing talent that was sharpened by his experiences in the Sao Paulo stadium as a teenager. And it was not only Maradona who caught his eager eyes.

"I remember, when I was 14, Napoli were drawn against Real Madrid in the Champions Cup. The stadium was packed. The atmosphere was incredible. I looked at the Madrid players as they came out. They were all used to playing in big, packed stadia. But I thought I saw doubt and uncertainty on their faces.

"I thought they were afraid. I thought we would beat them. But then, when we were winning 1-0, Emilio Butragueno sneaked away on the counter-attack and scored a wonderful equaliser. I remember thinking at the time it was as if, in the middle of a party, someone had turned off the music. I've never 'heard' a silence like it."

By then Napoli's coaching staff had seen plenty of the young Cannavaro and decided that, while he would never make a Butragueno, much less a Maradona, he had plenty of other talents.

That was how Cannavaro was switched back into midfield, then into central defence and, occasionally, full-back. He quickly found that one of the ideal ways in which to learn his duties was to watch the great players of his day. Who better to watch, to emulate, than Milan, with their cast-iron back four of Mauro Tassotti, Billy Costacurta, Franco Baresi and Paolo Maldini.

Cannavaro was highly impressed. He says: "At their best, as I remember them, they were sensational. It may sound an odd comment about defenders but I became a student of their style. Baresi was phenomenal. Maradona and Careca went at him with all their pace and skill and the little tricks that sent us in all the wrong directions on the training grounds at Soccava. But Baresi was having none of it. From the first to last whistle he never missed a tackle.

"As for Maldini…well, I positioned myself out behind one of the touchlines so I could study him from close range. I was hugely impressed by the power and pace he generated when he went up in attack. If anyone had said then that, one day, we would play for the same side…"

But whiie Napoli was an ideal school for Cannavaro, the club were sliding into controversy, crisis and ultimately Serie B. Cannavaro made his Serie A debut in March 1993, in a 4-3 defeat away to Juventus, and was an established first-teamer by the time Parma bought him in the summer of 1995.

"I was sad to leave Napoli," says Cannavaro. "I owe the club so much and have so many great memories. But things had started to go wrong years before. The Maradona doping case in 1991 was just the start."

While Napoli sank into decline, Cannavaro's career, by contrast, went from strength to strength. Already an Under-21 international, he was promoted into the senior Italy side by new coach Cesare Maldini in the spring of 1997 – first for a friendly against Northern Ireland (won 2-0), then for the World Cup qualifier against England at Wembley (won 1-0).

With Parma, he became a rock at the heart of the defence on which the club built their UEFA Cup victories of 1995 and last season. Now Cannavaro's eyes are on winning the League.

As he says: "That's where I came in as a kid – with Napoli winning the championship in the 1980s. I saw Maradona and Careca do it. Now I want it for myself."

Paris Saint-Germain
Capital gains

Nick Bidwell examines the reasons behind PSG's upturn in fortunes

Pointing the way...goalkeeper Bernard Lama

VIVE the resurgent Paris Saint-Germain. After the minimal returns of last season – a poor ninth in the French League and knocked out in the first round of the Cup-winners Cup by Maccabi Haifa – a new-look PSG appear a good bet for some substantial capital gains this term.

No sign thus far of the superstar ego trips and white flag tendency which poisoned their ranks in 98-99. During the initial exchanges of the current season there has been no more committed and unified side than the Parisians, and at the end of last month they were deservedly among the opening pacesetters, alongside Lyon, Monaco and Auxerre.

At the same stage of last season PSG had slipped to 12th place and given themselves a handicap from which they would never recover. This time around a much more solid start has been made, with 14 points from the opening eight matches and a morale-boosting 2-1 home win over reigning champions Bordeaux.

Defeats in Lyon (1-0) and at Parc des Princes against Monaco (3-0) served as timely reminders that today's PSG are anything but infallible. But with some fortune, they might have earned something from both games.

Away to Lyon they dominated for long periods but were ultimately undone by the red cards foolishly earned by two key figures, Ali Benarbia and Laurent Robert. At home to Monaco, PSG's new Brazilian striker, Christian, his front-line partner, Mickael Madar, Nigerian virtuoso Jay-Jay Okocha and Benarbia squandered at least six good first-half chances between them before the roof fell in after the restart.

That's the bad news. Now for the good. PSG very much remain in the French title race and club coach Philippe Bergeroo is happy to admit to being too conservative in his pre-season declaration of intent.

"At the start of the season I looked at our squad and the state of our rivals in France and thought that sixth was a reasonable target for us to aim at," says Bergeroo. "My opinion was that success in one of the domestic national cups might prove our best hope of qualifying for Europe.

"But now the season is under way and we've shown a lot of quality, so I feel much more at ease, more optimistic. There is a lot of confidence in the camp, we have a good balance and, very importantly, this is a squad of players full of character. Even when we trailed Lyon 1-0 and were down to nine men we continued to stretch our opponents.

"On the other hand, this is not the time to stop and admire so-called achievements. We have to stay humble. We've done nothing yet. This is a good PSG team but not yet a great one."

Bergeroo's softly-softly approach, however, was

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Irrepressible...club captain Ali Benarbia

not just a ploy to deflect pressure away from his team. After all, he knows only too well what a sorry state PSG were in when he was appointed to take over from the sacked Artur Jorge last March.

The 98-99 season was turning out to be one of the most disastrous of Paris Saint-Germain's 29-year history: mediocre in the League, dumped out of the weakest of the European club competitions, and all around a sour atmosphere of recriminations and self-obsession.

A team who had grown used to top billing at home and abroad over the past decade was holed and sinking fast. Canal Plus, the French television station that owns PSG and is a major investor in worldwide movie production, had a footballing Titanic on its hands.

For the bulk of 98-99, coaches Alain Giresse and then Artur Jorge tried and failed to find answers to the team's most pressing problems: the chronic lack of confidence, cohesiveness and team spirit, and the habit of panicking under pressure. But Bergeroo, one of Aime Jacquet's loyal coaching lieutenants during France's triumph at World Cup 98, seems to be having few difficulties in working the oracle.

"I haven't a magic wand," says the 45-year-old coach with a smile. "PSG's improvement is down to hard work and the desire of the players. It's very important that many of the squad were here last season and they are really motivated not to relive all those disappointments.

"I feel we made the right decision when we turned down the chance of playing in the InterToto Cup this summer. It allowed us to prepare properly for the new season and all the tactical work we put in is coming up trumps.

"Everyone's role on the field is well-defined and everyone is carrying out their tasks to the full.

"I'm not an ogre. I try to be as democratic as possible. But discipline is vital to a football club and on this point I will not be moved. The players know the limits of behaviour they must not go beyond. I always stress that if we want to become a great European club, it is an objective that we can only achieve collectively. The interests of the club come before those of any individual."

Bergeroo talks in glowing terms of the 'fresh impetus' provided by PSG's new signings, and justifiably so. The Nigerian international Godwin Okpara has done a fine job in central defence, where he has replaced Christian Worns, now at Dortmund; the goals and outstanding left-wing work of former Montpellier star Laurent Robert have propelled him into the French national team; and on the opposite flank Ali Benarbia is reproducing the same brand of intelligent probing that played such a pivotal part in bringing Bordeaux the title last season.

Robert and Benarbia are just what PSG needed: talented players bristling with ambition. Robert, from Reunion, insists that PSG are "much more than a UEFA Cup zone team", while the irrepressible Benarbia is a fount of upbeat comments. "Everyone seems to think we're a team in transition," he says. "But even a runners-up spot doesn't interest us. We want to win the championship."

The one potential obstacle to a third League title – after those of 85-86 and 93-94 – is a lack of punch up front following the recent departures of the Italian Marco Simone to Monaco and Bruno Rodriguez to Bradford City.

The club's £10million Brazilian recruit Christian is struggling to find his feet, and willing though he is, the ex-Everton front-man Mickael Madar cannot be expected to do it all on his own.

By the time you read this PSG may well have bought another marksman. Their hopes of success in the first championship of the new century may depend on it.

A city with only one giant

PARIS, one of the most important cities in Europe, has never quite embraced football as passionately as the likes of Madrid, Barcelona, Milan, Rome, London and Liverpool, all of which comfortably manage to maintain two or more top clubs.

Some say it is because the city is too cosmopolitan; others that there are simply too many rival forms of entertainment. But clearly the history of football in Paris has been decidedly patchy, with no fewer than eight professional clubs filing for bankruptcy.

Indeed, until the advent of Paris Saint-Germain in 1970, Parisian soccer's track record was abysmal, with only one of its clubs ever winning a League title – Racing Club in 1936. But after PSG reached the French top flight for the first time in 1974, they went on to win back-to-back national Cups in 1982 and 1983, clinched their inaugural League title three years later and, perhaps most significantly, built up a loyal fan base.

In 1991, however, it looked as though PSG would be the latest in a long line of Parisian clubs to fold under a mountain of debts. Then television company Canal Plus bailed them out and subsequently the club embarked on another winning spree, claiming the League (1994), the domestic Cup (1993 and 1995) and the European Cup-winners Cup (1996).

These days, PSG have virtually no competition within the capital. No other Parisian outfit is in the top flight, the city's only Second Division team play in the south-western dormitory town of Creteil, and only in the Third Division is there substantial representation: Racing, Noisy-le-Sec, Red Star, Paris FC and Evry.

Given Paris Saint-Germain's predominance in the metropolis, they were widely expected to take up residence in the brand-new, 80,000-capacity Stade de France. For some time the club had complained about the high cost of renting the 49,000-capacity Parc from Paris City Council, and that they received none of the revenue from stadium advertising. At Stade de France, the club would benefit from more spectators, higher ticket prices, more merchandising opportunities and greater prestige.

However, supporters promptly rallied to fight the proposed switch, though it was effectively Paris City Hall that scuppered the move. State president and former Paris mayor Jacques Chirac and his allies at the right-wing-controlled City Hall were determined not to allow PSG to leave their patch – Stade de France is in Saint-Denis, another municipal area – and won the day by threatening to stop the club's annual £3.8million subsidy if they left. They also promised to stump up funds for further renovation of the Parc, PSG's home since 1973. Francs talk.

Nick Bidwell

Staying put...PSG remain at Parc des Princes

PSG - the squad

THE COACH

Philippe BERGEROO

Born: 13.01.54

Beneath the composed exterior there lies a keenly ambitious and single-minded boss whose watchwords are meticulous preparation, tactical discipline and good lines of communication with his players. Bergeroo was a highly-regarded member of the national coaching staff when France triumphed at the last World Cup, moved to the PSG boot-room shortly afterwards, and was given responsibility for the first team last March. He enjoyed an excellent playing career as a goalkeeper for Bordeaux, Lille and Toulouse and won three caps for France. Joined the national coaching set-up in 1994.

GOALKEEPERS

Dominique CASAGRANDE

08.05.71

Increasingly resentful at being kept out of the first team by Lama. A League champion with Nantes in 94-95, he joined PSG in summer 1998 after an unhappy stint with Seville.

Edwin Murati

Bernard LAMA

07.04.63

Now in his second spell at PSG and still going strong at 36. Has great reflexes, a good appreciation of angles and is a charismatic and inspirational leader. Born in Guyana, Lama now has 40 caps for France and was instrumental in PSG's march to the French Cup in 1993, the League title in 1994 and the Cup-winners Cup in 1996. Has also kept goal for Lille, Metz, Brest and West Ham.

DEFENDERS

Jimmy ALGERINO

28.10.71

Adventurous right-back whose forward bursts are one of PSG's most favoured attacking routes. With Niort, Monaco, Epinal and Chateauroux before arriving in Paris for the 96-97 season.

CESAR Augusto Belli Michelon (Bra)

16.11.75

Brazilian international centre-back signed from Portuguesa in the close season for £3.3million. But the good form in central defence of Rabesandratana and Okpara restricted him to a substitute role in the early part of the campaign.

Nicolas LASPALLES

27.11.71

Paris-born but made a name for himself as an attack-minded right-back at Guingamp. Joined PSG at the start of last season but was sent on loan mid-term to Lens, where he performed brilliantly. Now back at PSG and doing well at left-back.

Godwin OKPARA (Nig)

20.09.72

Versatile and accomplished Nigerian international whose best work is as a sweeper or central defensive marker. Can also play in midfield. A summer buy from Strasbourg, to whom he moved in 1996 after spells in Belgium with Eendracht Aalst and Beerschot.

Gregory PAISLEY

07.05.77

Promising young full-back who can operate on either flank. A graduate of the PSG youth ranks, he made his first-team debut a year ago.

Godwin Okpara

Eric RABESANDRATANA

18.09.72

A former France Under-21 cap with plenty of experience as both a midfield enforcer and at centre-back. Joined PSG from Nancy in June 1997.

MIDFIELDERS

Ali BENARBIA

08.10.68

This imaginative right-sided playmaker was arguably Bordeaux's best player last season as they clinched the League title, but then shocked everyone by leaving for Paris. Not surprisingly, Philippe Bergeroo appointed him captain. As well as being an outstanding creator, Benarbia is a feisty competitor who can inspire all around him but has had his share of disciplinary travails. Started in the Second Division with Martigues and then spent three good years at Monaco, helping them win the League in 96-97.

Edouard CISSE

30.03.78

France Under-21 cap who was promptly recalled to PSG headquarters after a string of outstanding performances while on loan at Rennes last season. An athletic and technically assured presence in midfield when given his chance.

Pierre DUCROCQ

18.12.76

Tactical nous and talent as a ball-winner have made him an automatic choice for the holding role in midfield over the past 18 months. A graduate of PSG's youth scheme, he made his first-team debut in April 1995.

Edwin MURATI (Alb)

12.11.75

Bergeroo caused a stir when he called up this relatively unknown Albanian for the Bordeaux game last month. But he did not let his coach down, constantly worrying the opposition with his raids down the flanks. Began his career with Partizan Tirana before moving to PSG as a 17-year-old in 1993.

Augustine 'Jay-Jay' OKOCHA (Nig)

14.08.73

Nigerian playmaker blessed with extraordinary ball skills, but overdoes the showmanship at times. Left Lagos to try his luck in Germany at the age of 18 and after a spell at Third Division Borussia Neunkirchen he became a cult hero at Eintracht Frankfurt. Enjoyed similar status following a move to Fenerbahce in 1996. Some dazzling displays for Nigeria at France 98 earned him a £9m move to PSG, but he missed most of last term.

Igor YANOVSKI (Rus)

03.08.74

Russian international who has not always convinced since joining from Alania Vladikavkaz early last season. But there can be no doubting Yanovski's potential worth. He can play virtually anywhere in midfield or at full-back, is strong in the air and in the tackle, and can score. Capped 21 times for Russia.

FORWARDS

CHRISTIAN Correa Dionisio (Bra)

24.04.75

After a prolonged wrangle this summer, the Brazilian finally signed for £10m from Internacional. Has begun tentatively, but Bergeroo claims it is only a matter of time before he "explodes into goalscoring form".

Jerome LEROY

04.11.74

Classic winger or midfielder. Not an automatic first-teamer but incredibly popular at Parc des Princes. He made his PSG debut early in the 96-97 season and was a key figure in the team's progress to the Final of the 1997 Cup-winners Cup.

Mickael MADAR

08.05.68

Joined PSG mid-way through last season after rocky spells with Deportivo La Coruna and Everton. Initially given a rough ride by PSG supporters, but his wholehearted style and goals have won over the doubters. Started with Sochaux and had spells with Laval, Cannes and Monaco before being lured away by Deportivo in 1996. Capped three times by France.

Mickael Madar

Laurent ROBERT

21.05.75

PSG paid Montpellier £4m for this left-sided attacker or midfielder and already he looks like the bargain of the season. Robert, from Reunion, is quick, scores and makes goals and works unselfishly for the team. Fully deserved his first full cap, against Northern Ireland in August.

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Palmeiras

Results first

A change of style has paid off for the club who forsook the finer arts. By Brian Homewood

Looking forward...Oseas

SOUTH AMERICAN club champions Palmeiras are historically associated with the finer arts of football. But for the 'Academy', as they are sometimes known, this year's long-awaited success in the Libertadores Cup came only after they decided to ditch their more cultured traditions for a more pragmatic approach.

The club produced two of the finest Brazilian footballing sides of the decade, both built during separate stints by current national team manager Wanderley Luxemburgo: the first, featuring Roberto Carlos and Edmundo, won successive Brazilian championships in 1993 and 1994, while the second, combining the talents of Rivaldo and Djalminha, scored 101 goals in 30 games on the way to a memorable triumph in the Sao Paulo championship.

But success in the South American club championship and, consequently, a trip to Tokyo to meet the European champions remained a dream. Palmeiras never managed to get further than the last eight of the Libertadores – which they qualified for after their back-to-back national titles – despite one memorable performance in which they hammered six goals past Boca Juniors. Consequently, Palmeiras were merely envious viewers as first Sao Paulo, then Gremio, Cruzeiro and Vasco da Gama all made the trip to Japan between 1992 and 1998.

Luxemburgo ended his second spell at the end of 1996 and was replaced by his understudy, Marcio Araujo. He began well but then a disastrous run of results brought the inevitable consequence. At this point, the club opted for a change of direction and brought in Luis Felipe Scolari (*see profile, opposite*).

This appointment, in mid-1997, was greeted with extreme scepticism by the Palmeiras faithful. Scolari had been one of Brazil's most successful coaches but his Gremio team who won the Copa Brasil, Libertadores Cup and Brazilian title in successive years had become infamous for rough tactics.

Palmeiras had first-hand experience of Gremio at their worst. Their 1995 Libertadores campaign ended with a 5-1 quarter-final defeat away to Scolari's men, a game in which Palmeiras fell apart after a massive brawl started by Gremio players.

Barely two years later, 'Big Phil' was given a less than warm welcome at the Academy. But results came quickly and Scolari won over his critics. Palmeiras reached the Final of the Brazilian championship only six months after his appointment, only to lose to Vasco da Gama. Another six months on, they won the Copa Brasil, which qualified them for this year's Libertadores. And this year, they fulfilled the club's long-held dream by winning that as well. This in turn earned them their chance of winning the World Club Cup, against Manchester United in Tokyo on November 30.

Ever since taking over, Scolari has shown his

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preference for players who are either physically strong or very fast and tactically disciplined. Those who are less disciplined, such as former Valencia striker Viola, have been kicked out.

Scolari's signings have included three of his old boys from Gremio, Paulo Nunes and Paraguayans Francisco Arce and Catalino Rivarola. Others include defender Junior Baiano, lumbering striker Oseas, and the one truly gifted player, left-sided midfielder Alex. Faustino Asprilla joined in July from Parma, but he has hardly played. He has never seemed Big Phil's type of player and the signing looks suspiciously like one made by club directors.

Palmeiras have much in common with their Tokyo opponents. Like Manchester United in the Champions League, they qualified for the Libertadores without winning their national championship; like United in the European decider, they were extremely fortunate to win the Libertadores Final, against Deportivo Cali; and like United, they are not the most popular among neutrals. Cleber and Junior Baiano form one of the roughest central defences in Brazil, while Paulo Nunes, with his childish goal celebrations, constant whingeing and tendency to dive is one of the country's most irritating players. The gloating by such as keeper Marcos after the Libertadores win against Cali was nauseating.

Five days after winning the Libertadores, Palmeiras were involved in a massive brawl during the second leg of the Sao Paulo State Final against Corinthians. Palmeiras were three goals behind on aggregate with 14 minutes to go when three of their players – Junior, Zinho and Paulo Nunes – attacked Edilson after he juggled with the ball in midfield. Others joined in and the referee was forced to call the game off.

As Edilson said: "Paulo Nunes celebrates goals by wearing silly masks but when I have a little joke, he can't take it."

No holds barred...Cleber

Big Phil's rough road to success

PALMEIRAS manager Luis Felipe Scolari gave one of the most startlingly honest insights to his way of thinking after his team beat Deportivo Cali on penalties to win the Libertadores Cup.

A Brazilian commentator, seething with indignation about Cali's blatant time-wasting, asked Scolari to comment. Big Phil (Felipao), as he is usually known, silenced his interviewer by replying: "I'd probably have told my players to have done the same thing if we had been in Cali's situation."

Scolari seems almost proud of the fact that his teams adopt a win-at-all-costs approach. But although he has been vilified as encouraging rough tactics, he and his team are not as bad as some other Brazilian outfits; the only difference is that Scolari owns up to a certain degree of naughtiness while many other managers cynically pose as angels.

Big Phil has horrified purists several times by criticising his players in public for not being dirty enough. Before last year's Brazilian championship quarter-finals he was widely quoted as saying: "Nobody can afford to lose now so I'm asking my players to commit more fouls in midfield without injuring anyone. The other coaches say they don't tell their players to do this. But the fact is that I'm stupid because I tell the truth while the others lie."

Scolari sets the example for his players by spending much of his time on the touchline bullying linesmen and referees. Earlier this year, Flamengo claimed that Scolari was ordering balls to be thrown on to the pitch to disrupt play as they pressed for a late winner in a Copa Brasil match. Meanwhile, against Vasco da Gama, touchline microphones caught him yelling: "Foul Felipe, foul Felipe" – Vasco's best player at the time.

Scolari rolls his eyes, sways his head and often wears a 'did you spill my pint?' expression when talking to reporters. And he makes no bones about what could happen to anyone who delves into his personal affairs. "If someone talks about my private life, for example, I'll give them a good punching. I'm not interested in suing. I like to sort things out my way."

Big Phil admits that such straight-talking probably means he will never have the chance to coach Brazil. Even the idea of wearing a suit annoys him, as club directors found out when they ordered him to don one for a trip to Chile: "I hate wearing a jacket and tie," he told a reporter. "I only use it for weddings and going to mass."

As a player, Scolari was an unforgiving if modest central defender who thrived on the muddy pitches of southern Brazil. He also made his coaching name down south, where the rugged style of play bears more resemblance to Argentinian or Uruguayan football, and in the Arab world, before venturing to Sao Paulo two years ago.

Scolari arrived at Palmeiras in a climate of mutual suspicion: the Paulistas saw him as something of a bully-boy, and doubted if his so-called 'Sergeant Major' approach would work in their more sophisticated football. Scolari, for his part, claimed he had suffered discrimination just because he comes from the south of the country.

Many remembered the incident in which he was alleged to have punched Wanderley Luxemburgo, then in charge of Flamengo, during a Gremio home game. Millions of TV viewers heard Luxemburgo yell: "He hit me, he hit me, he's a crook."

Scolari's behaviour on his arrival at Palmeiras seemed to back the theory that he was a provincial type who would not go far in the metropolis. His decision to bring in Paulo Nunes and Francisco Arce, two key players from the Gremio team, was greeted as unimaginative. Early results were far from spectacular, and Scolari infuriated fans by ordering the team to train out of their sight. He also decked a reporter who asked him a question he did not like.

Slowly but surely, though, Big Phil began to prove himself. Winning the 1998 Copa Brasil got Palmeiras into the Libertadores Cup, which always had been their priority. Several wins over arch-rivals Corinthians helped his cause and many people preferred his down-to-earth approach to that of Luxemburgo, with his designer suits and laptop computers.

Scolari still sometimes ends up with egg on his face, however. Last year, he repeated his public call for his team to commit more fouls before a Brazilian championship quarter-final against Cruzeiro. As usual, his players delivered. Two of them were sent off for bad tackles as Palmeiras lost 3-2 and were eliminated.

Brian Homewood

Palmeiras – the squad

Back home...Ze Maria

GOALKEEPER

MARCOS Roberto Silveira Rios
Born: 04.08.73
A reserve until this year, but made his mark during the Libertadores Cup tie against Corinthians.

DEFENDERS

Francisco Javier ARCE Rolon (Par)
02.04.71
Paraguayan international whose pinpoint crossing is perfectly suited to the Palmeiras style of play. Probably the best right-back in Brazilian football. Played in Scolari's 1995 Gremio team.

CLEBER Americo de Conceicao
26.07.69
A regular for the best part of a decade. Has won a couple of caps for Brazil but is generally regarded as too rough. His style of play has been aided by lenient Brazilian referees.

JUNIOR, Genilson Angelo de Souza
20.06.73
A speedy left-back who has made the position his own since replacing Roberto Carlos four years ago. Capped six times by Brazil.

JUNIOR BAIANO, Raimundo Ferreira Ramos Junior
14.03.70
Erratic player who alternates moments of composure with horrendous blunders. A first-choice for Brazil at France 98 but has not been picked since. Previous clubs include Flamengo, Sao Paulo and Werder Bremen. Receives red cards too often for comfort.

Catalino RIVAROLA Mendes (Par)
30.04.65
Another regular in the 1995 Gremio team. Former Paraguayan international who lost his place to Celso Ayala before France 98.

Jose Vitor ROQUE JUNIOR
31.08.76
Less rough than Cleber and more consistent than Junior Baiano Has gained more experience over the past year and earned a couple of calls from Brazil. His heading ability makes him a useful asset at corners.

ZE MARIA, Jose Marcelo Ferreira
25.07.73
Played for Brazil in the 1997 Copa America before disappearing from the international scene. Returned to Brazil this year after three years in Italy and is now with his eighth club.

MIDFIELDERS

ALEX, Alexsandro de Souza
14.09.77
The team's most naturally gifted player after Asprilla, and has been a regular since signing from Coritiba two years ago. Played for Brazil in this year's Copa America and now has six goals in 13 internationals.

Carlos CESAR SAMPAIO Campos
31.03.68
The lungs of midfield. Rejoined the club at the start of 1999 after four years with Yokohama Flugels. A regular for Brazil at World Cup 98.

Marcos Aurelio GALEANO
28.03.72
A player of limited ability and not a favourite of the fans but greatly admired by Scolari for his tactical discipline and work rate.

JACKSON Coelho Silva
07.07.73
Creative midfielder who has been given little chance under Scolari. Joined from Sport Recife, where he virtually ran the team. Has won a couple of caps with Brazil.

ROGERIO Fidelis Regis
28.12.76
Defensive midfielder who was raised at the club and has flourished under Scolari. Three caps for Brazil.

ZINHO Crizam Cesar de Oliveira Junior
17.06.67
Left-sided midfielder who scores plenty of goals.

Speedy...Junior

Ever-present in Brazil's 1994 World Cup team and has won 56 caps in all. Rejoined Palmeiras in 1997 after two years with Yokohama Flugels.

FORWARDS

Faustino ASPRILLA (Col)
10.11.69
Enormously gifted Colombian who has barely featured since joining from Parma in July.

EVAIR Aparecido Paulino
21.02.65
Experienced scorer who has not lost his touch, despite generally being used as a sub. Previous clubs include Guarani, Vasco da Gama, Portuguesa, Italy's Atalanta and Japan's Yokohama Flugels. Won nine caps, all between 1992 and 1993.

OSEAS Reis dos Santos
14.05.71
Physically strong, especially dangerous in the air, though not the most skilful player. Oseas is the regular centre-forward and has won two caps for Brazil, both in friendlies in 1996.

Arilson de PAULO NUNES
30.10.71
Lightweight and quick, he was bought from Gremio where he was part of the 1995 Libertadores Cup-winning side. Has a tendency for diving, whingeing and performing silly goal celebrations. Two caps for Brazil, both as a sub in 1997.

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UEFA EURO 2000
Belgium · The Netherlands

Finalists and fallers

After 16 months and 230 games, the waiting is almost over. Gavin Hamilton reviews the qualifying campaign for next year's European Championship finals

GROUP 1

Late scare for lacklustre Italy

AFTER a promising if unspectacular start under new coach Dino Zoff, Italy stumbled and staggered over the finishing line. The *Azzurri* needed a point from their final match, away to Belarus, to be assured of first place ahead of Denmark, who had beaten Italy a month earlier in Naples to revive their qualification hopes.

The Italians duly obtained that point in Minsk, but Zoff's men did so with the howls of criticism for the defeat by Denmark still ringing in their ears. "You have to search back in a century of history to find a national team which two goals up, suffered a defeat in such a fashion. In Italy, in Naples," *Gazzetta dello Sport* said after Italy had thrown away a two-goal lead to lose 3-2 to the Danes.

Italy had started well enough, winning away in Liverpool against the Welsh, and Copenhagen and at home to Switzerland. But draws at home to Belarus and away to the Swiss, when they only avoided defeat thanks to the heroics of young keeper Gianluigi Buffon, suggested that Zoff still had a lot of work to do.

The Danes may have pushed Italy further had they not started the qualifying campaign so badly. Home defeats by Wales and Italy and draws with Belarus and Switzerland left Bo Johansson's side, struggling to adapt to life after the Laudrups, chasing second spot in the group.

A freak goal against Belarus by Jan Heintze, straight from a corner, gave Denmark a 1-0 win and kick-started their campaign. And Feyenoord striker Jon Dahl Tomasson was on target in wins over Wales and Switzerland which put Denmark back into contention.

Goals by Diego Fuser and Christian Vieri in the first half of Italy's home match against Denmark in Naples appeared to have put Italy as good as in next summer's finals. But a remarkable second-half comeback by the Danes, capped by Tomasson's winner, changed everything, and left the Italians needing a result against Belarus in their final game.

In Minsk, against an injury-hit Belarus side who were playing under a new coach, Sergei Barovsky, a lacklustre Italy collected a point, but rarely looked threatening. Christian Vieri hit a post on the half-hour but his partnership with Filippo Inzaghi failed to inspire.

"We had many chances but could not make them count and this is to the credit of the Belorussians who defended very well," Zoff said. "We were ready for a result like this."

Denmark finished in second place ahead of Switzerland thanks to their better head-to-head record.

Norse power...Vidar Riseth helped Norway sweep past Slovenia

GROUP 2

Norway take control

IN, arguably, the weakest group of all, top seeds Norway struggled to establish themselves early on. But as their hangover from France 98 wore off, the Norwegians, under new coach Nils Johan Semb, soon took control.

Semb, using the same players and tactics employed by his predecessor, Egil Olsen, got off to the worst possible start. They lost 3-1 at home to Latvia and the crowd were quick to voice their disapproval of Semb, chanting "Drillo, Drillo" in memory of the former coach. But away wins in Slovenia (2-1), Greece (2-0), Georgia (4-1) and Albania (2-1) silenced the critics and put the Norwegians in pole position.

A 1-0 win over Greece in September was followed a few days later by a 4-0 thrashing of Slovenia which sealed qualification.

The influence of the English Premiership on the Norwegian side is undeniable: 17 of Norway's 21 goals in the qualifying campaign were scored by English-based players.

Slovenia were the surprise team of the group, if not the entire qualifying section. Inspired by the goals of midfielder Zlatko Zahovic, they could afford to lose 3-0 to Greece in their final qualifying match – and still reach the play-offs.

Greece were one of the big disappointments. Confidence had been high following the appointment of former Romania boss Anghel Iordanescu in the summer of 1998. But bad results and disagreements with the federation led to Iordanescu's replacement by Vasilis Daniel.

The poor results continued under the new manager, with defeats by Latvia and Norway all but ending Greek hopes of qualification.

GROUP 3

German luck holds

GERMAN football may be at its lowest point for years, but the national team's luck held long enough to qualify automatically for Euro 2000.

The *nationalmannshaft* needed to

Hair-raising...David Beckham and Sweden's Magnus Svensson

avoid defeat by Turkey in their final match of the qualifying campaign, in Munich's Olympiastadion. They did it, but only just. The Turks went close on a number of occasions, notably when Okan Buruk hit the side netting of Oliver Kahn's goal late in the match. Turkish fans, who outnumbered their German counterparts in the 63,000 crowd, added to German anxieties.

For Germany, veteran captain Lothar Matthaus, 39 but still a key man, went close with a swerving shot in the 46th minute which went just wide.

"They put us under pressure at the start but, thank God, we held on," a relieved national coach Erich Ribbeck said afterwards.

For Ribbeck, who took charge following the departure of Berti Vogts last autumn, the qualifying campaign was accompanied by a series of jittery results in friendly matches, notably against the USA (twice) and Scotland.

In the Euro 2000 campaign, however, Ribbeck's men recorded a run of six straight wins following a disappointing opening defeat in Turkey.

The Turks started well, taking advantage of a draw which required them to play their first four matches at home. But Mustapha Denizli's men stuttered in the final straight, drawing 1-1 in Moldova and handing the initiative to Germany for the final match in Munich.

GROUP 4

France through after Filimonov fumble

ALEXANDER FILIMONOV will not forget October 9, 1999, in a hurry. Nor will the 80,000 Russians in Moscow's Luzhniki Stadium who witnesssed his goalkeeping blunder which handed Ukraine a qualifying lifeline at the expense of Russia.

The Russians were leading 1-0 through Valery Karpin's 75th-minute free-kick when Filimonov committed an almighty howler with minutes remaining. He misjudged Andrii Shevchenko's looping free-kick and punched it into his own net in the 87th minute. Ukraine thus gained the point they needed to finish second in the group – behind France and ahead of Russia.

Russia had dominated for long periods but Ukraine coach Jozhef Szabo said afterwards: "You can attack non-stop for 90 minutes and still lose the match. It wasn't luck, it was simply a big mistake by the goalkeeper. But it was a great shot by Shevchenko. I've seen him score many goals like that."

Meanwhile in Paris, France, who had struggled for so much of the campaign without injured playmaker Zinedine Zidane, claimed first place and the automatic qualifying berth from the group after an equally dramatic night.

Against Iceland at Stade de France, memories flooded back of Bulgaria's win at Parc des Princes in 1993, which had ended French hopes of reaching World Cup USA 94. The world champions took what seemed like a comfortable 2-0 lead into the half-time interval. But Iceland launched an impressive comeback to equalise through goals from Eyjolfur Sverrisson and Brynjar Gunnarsson. Substitute David Trezeguet rescued the match for France in the 71st minute when he pounced on Marcel Desailly's parried shot to score the winner from close range.

Up for grabs...France v Iceland

So the French finished top of the group when at one point it had seemed that there was a strong chance that they might miss out altogether. In the most tightly-contested group, defeat by Russia in June had left the world champions in a precarious position. If early group leaders Ukraine had won in Armenia, the French, who dropped points early on to Iceland and Ukraine, would have been even closer to missing out on the finals.

Instead it was Russia, who had been the favourites to qualify going into the final weekend, who missed out altogether. They had started the campaign poorly with defeats by France and Iceland, but revived under returning coach Oleg Romantsev.

Halted...Russia's Alexei Smertin stops Ukrainian Serhii Rebrov

GROUP 5

Swedes leave the English sweating

SWEDEN'S victory over England in the opening match of the group set the tone for the rest of the qualifying campaign. The Swedes cruised through, while England lost their way and, ultimately, had to rely on another result going in their favour.

In eight games, Sweden dropped just two points, from the 0-0 draw with England at Wembley, and conceded just one goal, an Alan Shearer free-kick in Stockholm in their opening match. Tommy Soderberg's side sealed their automatic qualification with a 1-0 win over Luxembourg in their penultimate game of the campaign.

England, by contrast, struggled from the start. The furore surrounding Glenn Hoddle's resignation as coach did not help, of course. Hoddle lasted three games into the campaign before his comments about the afterlife came back to haunt him.

A morale-boosting win against Poland in Kevin Keegan's first game in charge should have relaunched England's challenge, but three draws – a goalless stalemate with Sweden, 1-1 in Bulgaria, 0-0 in Poland – looked to have killed off the chances of the Euro 96 hosts making it to the Low Countries next summer.

Poland, who unlike England had beaten Bulgaria home and away, were left needing a point from their final match, away to Sweden, to edge England out of the runners-up spot.

In the end, Sweden did the English a massive favour, beating the Poles 2-0 in Stockholm with goals from Kennet Andersson and Henrik Larsson. The goals came late in the game, and England had been left sweating to the last.

It was a disappointing end for the Poles, who have produced their best national side for some time.

Keegan was quick to pay tribute to the Poles, saying: "*Tusen tack* – a thousand thanks to Sweden," adding with typical optimism: "We've had a reprieve. People may describe us as 'backdoor charlies' but who's to say we can't come out the front door."

Goals galore...Spain celebrate automatic qualification

GROUP 6

Camacho's Spain romp through

SPAIN'S qualification never seemed in doubt after Jose Antonio Camacho replaced Javier Clemente as national coach following a humiliating 3-2 defeat by Cyprus in the opening group match.

Under Camacho, Spain are unbeaten in 11 games. In their eight qualifying matches, the Spanish scored 42 goals. An eight-goal thrashing of Cyprus in Badajoz confirmed their automatic qualification with one round of matches to spare.

The Spanish press were quick to praise Camacho. "Spain won because the coach made them hungry to overturn the serious mistake they made last year," reported *As*.

"Camacho has made Spaniards proud to wear their shirt again," said *Marca*.

Ironically, the goals against Cyprus that sealed Spain's qualification included hat-tricks by Ismael Urzaiz and Julen Guerrero, both of Athletic Bilbao. Camacho has insisted on selecting players from a much wider base, including unfashionable clubs such as Mallorca, than did Clemente, who was criticised for favouring his fellow Basques.

None of the other teams in the group avoided the Spanish goal spree. Even Israel, who qualified for the play-offs by finishing second behind Spain, went down 3-0 in their final match.

For the Israelis, the crucial result of the campaign was their emphatic 5-0 defeat of Austria in Tel Aviv. That match was hailed as the country's best result since Israel reached the 1970 World Cup. It effectively ended Austria's challenge and gave the national team huge belief.

Cyprus could have pipped Israel to the runners-up spot, but after their heavyweight defeat by Spain in their penultimate game, they collapsed to Austria in Vienna, as indiscipline and frustration set in.

Eduard Glieder and captain Ivica Vastic had put Austria 2-0 up early on, before Costas Kaiafas and Milenco Spoljaric were sent off in the 31st and 45th minutes respectively. But even with only nine men, Cyprus rallied to pull a goal back through Costas Costas in the 63rd minute. Andy Herzog confirmed Austria's victory with a goal seven minutes from time.

Head to head...Croatia-Yugoslavia

GROUP 7

Top two both make the finals

ROMANIA and Portugal both qualified automatically for next summer's finals. Romanian prospects were never in doubt after an away win and a home draw over the Portuguese, who qualified as the best second-placed team.

The Romanians needed only to beat Liechtenstein in their final match to finish top of the group. But coach Victor Piturca took no chances, calling up 11 players based abroad to the squad, including Dan Petrescu, captain Gheorghe Hagi and Viorel Moldovan.

Laurentiu Rosu and Ionel Ganea (two) scored the goals that secured Romania's place in the finals.

Portugal's 3-0 win over Hungary in Lisbon, with goals from Rui Costa, Vieira Pinto and Abel Xavier, boosted their goal difference and took them ahead of Turkey in the table of runners-up.

Romania's place as group winners had effectively been secured in the previous round of matches, when they drew 1-1 with the Portuguese in Bucharest. Both goals came in the first half, with Romania opening the scoring with an Adrian Ilie free-kick, and Portugal replying with a set-piece strike from captain Luis Figo.

GROUP 8

Yugoslavia on top

YUGOSLAVIA ran out winners in a highly-charged group whose fixtures were disrupted by the NATO airstrikes on Serbia.

The qualifying schedule went right to the wire. Yugoslavia held out for a 2-2 draw in Zagreb which, combined with Macedonia's late, late equaliser against the Republic of Ireland, sent the Yugoslavs through in the automatic qualifying berth. The Irish claimed the play-off spot while Croatia, third in last year's World Cup, missed out completely.

The Irish started well, beating Croatia 2-0 in their first match in Dublin and hitting 5-0 past Malta,

before losing 1-0 in Belgrade. They then had to wait more than six months to play another match as political events took over. In all, five matches were postponed.

When Yugoslavia eventually played their much-hyped first meeting with Croatia, the match ended goalless in Belgrade. That left the Croatians needing a win in Zagreb in the return encounter.

The Irish pulled off a memorable win over Yugoslavia in Dublin in September, but conceded an injury-time winner to Croatia in Zagreb three days later.

That tendency for late lapses proved costly for Ireland in their final match in Skopje. They took the lead against Macedonia through Niall Quinn early in the first half, only to concede an equaliser from a corner in the fourth minute of stoppage time.

In Zagreb, Yugoslavia took advantage of Irish misfortune to snatch top spot in the group. The Croatians were without captain Zvonimir Boban, Igor Stimac and Dario Simic, but took an early lead through Alen Boksic.

Yugoslavia went in at half-time 2-1 up after free-kicks by Sinisa Mihajlovic were helped past keeper Drazen Ladic by Predrag Mijatovic and Dejan Stankovic. By then, the Yugoslavs were down to 10 men after Zoran Mirkovic was sent off following a clash with Robert Jarni.

Croatia equalised early in the second half but playmaker Boban was sorely missed as they failed to find the winner they required.

GROUP 9

Czechs cruise it

THE CZECH REPUBLIC were never troubled in their quest to reach Euro 2000. They were the first country to qualify automatically, and they finished the campaign as the only team to take maximum points.

The closest Josef Chovanec's attack-minded side came to a scare was against Scotland in Prague, when the Scots took a 2-0 lead before the Czechs rallied to win 3-2 with a late goal from Jan Koller.

The win in Prague ensured automatic qualification for the Czechs, some four months ahead of schedule.

The Czechs had been in complete control of the group for some time, having beaten Scotland 2-1 in March, their first victory in Glasgow in six decades of trying.

The Scots faced competition of sorts for second spot from Bosnia, Lithuania and Estonia. Victory over the Bosnians in their penultimate game, which had been postponed because of the Kosovo crisis, ensured second place for Craig Brown's side.

Czeched back...Berger and Nedved stop Scotland's Eoin Jess

WHO'S WHO AT EURO 2000

HOLLAND: The co-hosts whose indifferent form under coach Frank Rijkaard is a concern. Most of France 98 squad remain. Key men: Dennis Bergkamp, Edgar Davids, Jaap Stam.

BELGIUM: Co-hosts with a new coach, Robert Waseige, following Georges Leekens's departure after a long run of disastrous friendly results. Key men: Marc Wilmots, Branko Strupar.

CZECH REPUBLIC: Qualified with a 100 per cent record. Attack-minded tactics under coach Josef Chovanec. Key men: Patrik Berger, Pavel Nedved, Vladimir Smicer.

NORWAY: New coach, same tactics, same results. Key men: Tore Andre Flo, Ole Gunnar Solskjaer, Kjetil Rekdal.

SWEDEN: Revived form under coach Tommy Soderberg, but still no role for the creative Par Zetterberg. Hard-working and difficult to beat. Key men: Henrik Larsson, Freddie Ljungberg.

SPAIN: Goal-happy in the qualifiers under new coach Jose Antonio Camacho. Will their nerve hold in the finals? Key men: Raul Gonzalez, Fernando Hierro, Luis Enrique.

ITALY: Unspectacular under new coach Dino Zoff in the qualifiers, but never knowingly under-estimated. Key men: Paolo Maldini, Christian Vieri, Pippo Inzaghi.

GERMANY: Ageing, defending champions who are clawing their way back from rock bottom following two defeats this year by the US. Key men: Oliver Bierhoff, Jens Jeremies, Lothar Matthaus.

FRANCE: World champions whose dependence on Zidane was almost exposed in the qualifiers. Is Anelka the answer to their striking problems? Key men: Zinedine Zidane, Marcel Desailly.

ROMANIA: In transition under new coach Victor Piturca. Key men: Adrian Ilie, Viorel Moldovan, Gheorghe Hagi.

YUGOSLAVIA: Expelled on the eve of Euro 92, but now back with an experienced squad, mostly based in Western Europe. Key men: Predrag Mijatovic, Sinisa Mihajlovic.

PORTUGAL: Exciting young side who will inevitably be labelled as the tournament's dark horses. Key men: Luis Figo, Rui Costa.

THE PLAY-OFF CONTENDERS...

DENMARK: Proof that there can be life after the Laudrups.

SLOVENIA: Surprise of the qualifiers, inspired by Zlatko Zahovic.

TURKEY: Gave Germany a run for their money, with goals from Hakan Sukur and the reborn Sergen Yalcin.

UKRAINE: More than just Kyiv Dynamo in disguise, with Rebrov and Shevchenko more than a match for most defences.

ENGLAND: Handed a lifeline by Sweden, can coach Keegan mould the talent into an effective, committed unit?

ISRAEL: Outsiders in more than one sense of the word.

REP. IRELAND: More stylish under Mick McCarthy than Jack Charlton, but can still play committed, direct football if needed.

SCOTLAND: Fancying their chances to qualify for another major tournament. Well-organised and hard to beat.

EURO 2000 COUNTDOWN

Group 1

05.09.98 .....Wales Italy.....0-2
05.09.98 .....Belarus-Denmark 0-0
10.10.98 .....Italy-Switzerland.....2-0
10.10.98 .....Denmark-Wales 1-2
14.10.98 .....Wales-Belarus.....3-2
14.10.98 .....Switzerland-Denmark.....1-1
27.03.99 .....Belarus-Switzerland 0-1
27.03.99 .....Denmark-Italy 1-2
31.03.99 .....Switzerland-Wales.....2-0
31.03.99 .....Italy-Belarus.....1-1
05.06.99 .....Italy-Wales 4-0
05.06.99 .....Denmark-Belarus.....1-0
09.06.99 .....Switzerland-Italy.....0-0
09.06.99 .....Wales-Denmark 0-2
04.09.99 .....Belarus-Wales.....1-2
04.09.99 .....Denmark-Switzerland 2-1
08.09.99 .....Switzerland-Belarus 2-0
08.09.99 .....Italy-Denmark 2-3
09.10.99 .....Wales-Switzerland.....0-2
09.10.99 .....Belarus-Italy.....0-0

GROUP 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
ITALY*	8	4	3	1	13	5	15
Denmark**	8	4	2	2	11	8	14
Switzerland	8	4	2	2	9	5	14
Wales	8	3	0	5	7	16	9
Belarus	8	0	3	5	4	10	3

Group 2

05.09.98 .....Georgia-Albania 1-0
06.09.98 .....Greece-Slovenia.....2-2
06.09.98 .....Norway-Latvia.....1-3
10.10.98 .....Slovenia-Norway.....1-2
10.10.98 .....Latvia-Georgia.....1-0
14.10.98 .....Norway-Albania 2-2
14.10.98 .....Greece-Georgia 3-0
14.10.98 .....Slovenia-Latvia 1-0
18.11.98 .....Albania-Greece 0-0
27.03.99 .....Greece-Norway 0-2
27.03.99 .....Georgia-Slovenia.....1-1
31.03.99 .....Latvia-Greece.....0-0
28.04.99 .....Latvia-Albania 0-0
28.04.99 .....Georgia-Norway 1-4
30.05.99 .....Norway-Georgia 1-0
05.06.99 .....Albania-Norway 1-2
05.06.99 .....Georgia-Greece.....1-2
05.06.99 .....Latvia-Slovenia 1-2
09.06.99 .....Albania-Slovenia 0-1
09.06.99 .....Greece-Latvia.....1-2
18.08.99 .....Slovenia-Albania 2-0
04.09.99 .....Norway-Greece 1-0
04.09.99 .....Albania-Latvia 3-3
04.09.99 .....Slovenia-Georgia.....2-1
08.09.99 .....Norway-Slovenia.....4-0
08.09.99 .....Georgia-Latvia.....2-2
06.10.99 .....Greece-Albania 2-0
09.10.99 .....Albania-Georgia 2-1
09.10.99 .....Slovenia-Greece.....0-3
09.10.99 .....Latvia-Norway.....1-2

GROUP 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
NORWAY*	10	8	1	1	21	9	25
Slovenia**	10	5	2	3	12	14	17
Greece	10	4	3	3	13	8	15
Latvia	10	3	4	3	13	12	13
Albania	10	1	4	5	8	14	7
Georgia	10	1	2	7	8	18	5

Group 3

05.09.98 .....Finland-Moldova 3-2
05.09.98 .....Turkey-Northern Ireland.....3-0
10.10.98 .....Turkey-Germany 1-0
10.10.98 .....Northern Ireland-Finland.....1-0
14.10.98 .....Moldova-Germany.....1-3
14.10.98 .....Turkey-Finland.....1-3
18.11.98 .....Northern Ireland-Moldova.....2-2
27.03.99 .....Northern Ireland-Germany 0-3
27.03.99 .....Turkey-Moldova 2-0
31.03.99 .....Germany-Finland 2-0
31.03.99 .....Moldova-Northern Ireland.....0-0
04.06.99 .....Germany-Moldova.....6-1
05.06.99 .....Finland-Turkey.....2-4
09.06.99 .....Moldova-Finland 0-0
04.09.99 .....Finland-Germany 1-2
04.09.99 .....Northern Ireland-Turkey.....0-3
08.09.99 .....Germany-Northern Ireland 4-0
08.09.99 .....Moldova-Turkey 1-1
09.10.99 .....Germany-Turkey 0-0
09.10.99 .....Finland-Northern Ireland.....4-1

GROUP 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
GERMANY*	8	6	1	1	20	4	19
Turkey**	8	5	2	1	15	6	17
Finland	8	3	1	4	13	13	10
N Ireland	8	1	2	5	4	19	5
Moldova	8	0	4	4	7	17	4

Group 4

05.09.98 .....Armenia-Andorra 3-1
05.09.98 .....Ukraine-Russia.....3-2
05.09.98 .....Iceland-France 1-1
10.10.98 .....Andorra-Ukraine.....0-2
10.10.98 .....Russia-France 2-3
10.10.98 .....Armenia-Iceland.....0-0
14.10.98 .....Ukraine-Armenia.....2-0
14.10.98 .....France-Andorra 2-0
14.10.98 .....Iceland-Russia 1-0
27.03.99 .....Andorra-Iceland 0-2
27.03.99 .....France-Ukraine 0-0
27.03.99 .....Armenia-Russia 0-3
31.03.99 .....Ukraine-Iceland.....1-1
31.03.99 .....Russia-Andorra 6-1
31.03.99 .....France-Armenia 2-0
05.06.99 .....Ukraine-Andorra.....4-0
05.06.99 .....France-Russia.....2-3
05.06.99 .....Iceland-Armenia.....2-0
09.06.99 .....Andorra-France 0-1
09.06.99 .....Russia-Iceland 1-0
09.06.99 .....Armenia-Ukraine 0-0
04.09.99 .....Ukraine-France 0-0
04.09.99 .....Iceland-Andorra 3-0
04.09.99 .....Russia-Armenia 2-0
08.09.99 .....Andorra-Russia 1-2
08.09.99 .....Iceland-Ukraine.....0-1
08.09.99 .....Armenia-France 2-3
09.10.99 .....France-Iceland 3-2
09.10.99 .....Russia-Ukraine.....1-1
09.10.99 .....Andorra-Armenia 0-3

GROUP 4

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
FRANCE*	10	6	3	1	17	10	21
Ukraine**	10	5	5	0	14	4	20
Russia	10	6	1	3	22	12	19
Iceland	10	4	3	3	12	7	15
Armenia	10	2	2	6	8	15	8
Andorra	10	0	0	10	3	28	0

Group 5

05.09.98 .....Sweden-England.....2-1
06.09.98 .....Bulgaria-Poland 0-3
10.10.98 .....Poland-Luxembourg.....3-0
10.10.98 .....England-Bulgaria 0-0
14.10.98 .....Bulgaria-Sweden 0-1
14.10.98 .....Luxembourg-England.....0-3
27.03.99 .....Sweden-Luxembourg.....2-0
27.03.99 .....England-Poland.....3-1
31.03.99 .....Luxembourg-Bulgaria 0-2
31.03.99 .....Poland-Sweden.....0-1
04.06.99 .....Poland-Bulgaria 2-0
05.06.99 .....England-Sweden.....0-0
09.06.99 .....Luxembourg-Poland.....2-3
09.06.99 .....Bulgaria-England 1-1
04.09.99 .....Sweden-Bulgaria 1-0
04.09.99 .....England-Luxembourg.....6-0
08.09.99 .....Luxembourg-Sweden.....0-1
08.09.99 .....Poland-England.....0-0
09.10.99 .....Sweden-Poland.....2-0
10.10.99 .....Bulgaria-Luxembourg 3-0

GROUP 5

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
SWEDEN*	8	7	1	0	10	1	22
England**	8	3	4	1	14	4	13
Poland	8	4	1	3	12	8	13
Bulgaria	8	2	2	4	6	8	8
Luxembourg	8	0	0	8	2	23	0

Group 6

05.09.98 .....Austria-Israel 1-1
05.09.98 .....Cyprus-Spain 3-2
10.10.98 .....Cyprus-Austria 0-3
10.10.98 .....San Marino-Israel 0-5
14.10.98 .....San Marino-Austria 1-4
14.10.98 .....Israel-Spain.....1-2
18.11.98 .....San Marino-Cyprus 0-1
10.02.99 .....Cyprus-San Marino 4-0
27.03.99 .....Spain-Austria 9-0
28.03.99 .....Israel-Cyprus.....3-0
31.03.99 .....San Marino-Spain 0-6
28.04.99 .....Austria-San Marino 7-0
05.06.99 .....Spain-San Marino 9-0
06.06.99 .....Israel-Austria 5-0
04.09.99 .....Austria-Spain 1-3
05.09.99 .....Cyprus-Israel.....3-2
08.09.99 .....Israel-San Marino 8-0
08.09.99 .....Spain-Cyprus 8-0
10.10.99 .....Spain-Israel.....3-0
10.10.99 .....Austria-Cyprus 3-1

GROUP 6

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
SPAIN*	8	7	0	1	42	5	21
Israel**	8	4	1	3	25	9	13
Austria	8	4	1	3	19	20	13
Cyprus	8	4	0	4	12	21	12
San Marino	8	0	0	8	1	44	0

Group 7

02.09.98 .....Romania-Liechtenstein 7-0
05.09.98 .....Slovakia-Azerbaijan 3-0
06.09.98 .....Hungary-Portugal.....1-3
10.10.98 .....Portugal-Romania 0-1
10.10.98 .....Liechtenstein-Slovakia.....0-4
10.10.98 .....Azerbaijan-Hungary 0-4
14.10.98 .....Hungary-Romania 1-1
14.10.98 .....Slovakia-Portugal.....0-3
14.10.98 .....Liechtenstein-Azerbaijan 2-1
26.03.99 .....Portugal-Azerbaijan 7-0
27.03.99 .....Romania-Slovakia.....0-0
27.03.99 .....Hungary-Liechtenstein.....5-0
31.03.99 .....Slovakia-Hungary.....0-0
31.03.99 .....Liechtenstein-Portugal.....0-5
31.03.99 .....Azerbaijan-Romania.....0-1
05.06.99 .....Portugal-Slovakia.....1-0
05.06.99 .....Romania-Hungary 2-0
05.06.99 .....Azerbaijan-Liechtenstein 4-0
09.06.99 .....Hungary-Slovakia.....0-1
09.06.99 .....Portugal-Liechtenstein.....8-0
09.06.99 .....Romania-Azerbaijan.....4-0
04.09.99 .....Azerbaijan-Portugal 1-1
04.09.99 .....Slovakia-Romania 1-5
04.09.99 .....Liechtenstein-Hungary.....0-0
08.09.99 .....Romania-Portugal 1-1
08.09.99 .....Slovakia-Liechtenstein.....2-0
08.09.99 .....Hungary-Azerbaijan 3-0
09.10.99 .....Liechtenstein-Romania 0-3
09.10.99 .....Azerbaijan-Slovakia 0-1
09.10.99 .....Portugal-Hungary.....3-0

GROUP 7

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
ROMANIA*	10	7	3	0	25	3	24
Portugal***	10	7	2	1	32	4	23
Slovakia	10	5	2	3	12	9	17
Hungary	10	3	3	4	14	10	12
Azerbaijan	10	1	1	8	6	26	4
Liechtenstein	10	1	1	8	2	39	4

Group 8

05.09.98 .....Rep Ireland-Croatia.....2-0
06.09.98 .....Macedonia-Malta 4-0
10.10.98 .....Malta-Croatia 1-4
14.10.98 .....Rep Ireland-Malta 5-0
14.10.98 .....Croatia-Macedonia.....3-2
18.11.98 .....Malta-Macedonia 1-2
18.11.98 .....Yugoslavia-Rep Ireland 1-0
10.02.98 .....Malta-Yugoslavia 0-3
05.06.99 .....Macedonia-Croatia.....1-1
08.06.99 .....Yugoslavia-Malta 4-1
09.06.99 .....Rep Ireland-Macedonia.....1-0
18.08.99 .....Yugoslavia-Croatia 0-0
21.08.99 .....Croatia-Malta 2-1
01.09.99 .....Rep Ireland-Yugoslavia 2-1
04.09.99 .....Croatia-Rep Ireland 1-0
05.09.99 .....Yugoslavia-Macedonia.....3-1
08.09.99 .....Malta-Rep Ireland 2-3
08.09.99 .....Macedonia-Yugoslavia.....2-4
09.10.99 .....Macedonia-Rep Ireland 1-1
09.10.99 .....Croatia-Yugoslavia.....2-2

GROUP 8

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
YUGOSLAVIA*	8	5	2	1	18	8	17
Rep of Ireland**	8	5	1	2	14	6	16
Croatia	8	4	3	1	13	9	15
Macedonia	8	2	2	4	13	14	8
Malta	8	0	0	8	6	27	0

Group 9

04.06.98 .....Estonia-Faroe Islands 5-0
19.08.98 .....Bosnia-Herzegovina-Faroe Is.....1-0
05.09.98 .....Bosnia-Herzegovina-Estonia.....1-1
05.09.98 .....Lithuania-Scotland.....0-0
06.09.98 .....Faroe Islands-Czech Republic.....0-1
10.10.98 .....Bosnia-Herzegovina-Czech Rep.....1-3
10.10.98 .....Lithuania-Faroe Islands 0-0
10.10.98 .....Scotland-Estonia.....3-2
14.10.98 .....Lithuania-Bosnia-Herzegovina.....4-2
14.10.98 .....Scotland-Faroe Islands 2-1
14.10.98 .....Czech Republic-Estonia 4-1
27.03.99 .....Czech Republic-Lithuania 2-0
31.03.99 .....Lithuania-Estonia 1-2
31.03.99 .....Scotland-Czech Republic 1-2
05.06.99 .....Bosnia-Herzegovina-Lithuania.....2-0
05.06.99 .....Estonia-Czech Republic 0-2
05.06.99 .....Faroe Islands-Scotland 1-1
09.06.99 .....Estonia-Lithuania 1-2
09.06.99 .....Faroe Islands-Bosnia-Herzegovina .2-2
09.06.99 .....Czech Republic-Scotland.....3-2
04.09.99 .....Bosnia-Herzegovina-Scotland.....1-2
04.09.99 .....Faroe Islands-Estonia 0-2
04.09.99 .....Lithuania-Czech Republic 0-4
08.09.99 .....Czech Rep-Bosnia-Herzegovina.....3-0
08.09.99 .....Faroe Islands-Lithuania 0-1
08.09.99 .....Estonia-Scotland.....0-0
05.10.99 .....Scotland-Bosnia-Herzegovina.....1-0
09.10.99 .....Estonia-Bosnia-Herzegovina.....1-4
09.10.99 .....Czech Republic-Faroe Islands.....2-0
09.10.99 .....Scotland-Lithuania.....3-0

GROUP 9

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
CZECH REP*	10	10	0	0	26	5	30
Scotland**	10	5	3	2	15	10	18
Bosnia-Herz.	10	3	2	5	14	17	11
Lithuania	10	3	2	5	8	16	11
Estonia	10	3	2	5	15	17	11
Faroe Islands	10	0	3	7	4	17	3

**Qualified for finals*
***Qualified for play-offs*
****Qualified for finals as best runners-up*

● The nine group winners and the best second-placed side qualified automatically for the finals, to be held in Holland and Belgium from June 10 to July 2, 2000. The other eight runners-up have been drawn to play in four two-leg play-offs, the winners of which will also qualify. These ties will be played on Nov 13/14 (1st leg) and Nov 17 (2nd leg).

● When teams finished level on points in the qualifying groups, position was determined by the points gained in the matches between the countries concerned. If still level, goal difference and then away goals from those head-to-head games was used to separate them.

Runners-up table

The best runners-up were decided by 1) points, 2) goal difference, 3) goals scored, 4) away goals from the games against the countries placed first, third and fourth in the respective groups.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Portugal (Gp 7)	6	4	1	1	11	3	13
Turkey (Gp 3)	6	4	1	1	12	5	13
Scotland (Gp 9)	6	3	1	2	9	6	10
Denmark (Gp 1)	6	3	1	2	10	8	10
Ukraine (Gp 4)	6	2	4	0	6	4	10
Rep Ireland (Gp 8)	6	3	1	2	6	4	10
Israel (Gp 6)	6	2	1	3	12	9	7
England (Gp 5)	6	1	4	1	5	4	7
Slovenia (Gp 2)	6	2	1	3	6	12	7

NOVEMBER 1999

THE NO.1 INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL MAGAZINE

WORLD SERVICE

YOUR COMPLETE GUIDE TO THE MONTH'S STATS & FACTS

INTERNATIONALS

Friday, September 3

Sep 3 - Toronto - friendly
Canada 1 (Brennan 53)
Jamaica 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 8,568

Saturday, September 4

Sep 4 - Buenos Aires - friendly
Argentina 2 (Veron 29, Crespo 57)
Brazil 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 50,000. **Ref:** Mendez (Uru)
Argentina: Bonana - Vivas, Ayala, Redondo, Samuel, Zanetti, Sorin, Veron (Simeone 41), Ortega (Gallardo 74), Crespo (Berizzo 90), Claudio Lopez (Gonzalez 46).
Brazil: Dida - Cafu, Antonio Carlos, Scheidt, Emerson, Roberto Carlos, Vampeta (Marcos Assuncao 46), Ze Roberto (Alex 46), Rivaldo, Ronaldinho (Elber 46), Ronaldo.

Sep 4 - Rotterdam - friendly
Holland 5 (Davids 36, 42, Kluivert 45, 58, 69)
Belgium 5 (Strupar 8, 29, Goor 50, Wilmots 52, Mpenza 77)
HT: 3-2. **Att:** 20,000. **Ref:** Meier (Swl)
Holland: Van der Sar - Reiziger, Stam (Konterman 61), F De Boer, Van Bronckhorst - Cocu, R De Boer, Davids, Kluivert (Van Hooijdonk 78), Bergkamp (Van Nistelrooy 65), Zenden.
Belgium: Vande Walle (Herpoel 40) - Deflandre (Hoefkens 78), Peters, Staelens, Van Kerckhoven (Hendrikx 72), Vanderhaeghe, Wilmots, Goor, Verheyen (Brogno 89), Strupar, E Mpenza (Walem 81).

Sep 4 - Tirana - EC qual
Albania 3 (Bushi 29, 78, Muka 90)
Latvia 3 (Astafjevs 20, 62, Stolerc 70)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Hamer (Lux)
Albania: Strakosha - Lala, Shulku, Xhumba, Vata, Fakaj (Bodgani 67), Haxhi, Bushi, Bellai, Murati (Dalipi 46), Tare (Muka 78).
Latvia: Kolinko - Stepanovs, Astafjevs (Babicevs 81), Emlinskis, Lobanovs, Lukasevics, Ivanovs (Blagonadezdins 60), Bleidelis (Bulders 84), Rubins, Stolcers, Miholaps. *Sent off: Lukasevics 84min.*

Sep 4 - Vienna - EC qual
Austria 1 (Hierro og 49)
Spain 3 (Raul 22, Hierro 56, Luis Enrique 88)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 27,000. **Ref:** Piraux (Blg)
Austria: Manninger - Hatz, Streiter, Winklhofer, Ibertsberger, Maehlich (Schopp 60), Cerny, Kuhbauer, Mayrleb, Vastic, Kirchler (Weissenberger 68).
Spain: Canizares - Michel Salgado, Sergi, Guardiola, Jemez, Hierro, Etxeberria (Mendieta 81), Luis Enrique, Morientes (Guerrero 88), Raul, Valeron (Engonga 72).

Sep 4 -Baku - EC qual
Azerbaijan 1 (Tagizade 51)
Portugal 1 (Figo 90)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 8,000. **Ref:** Gallagher (Eng)
Azerbaijan: Kramarenko - Agayev, Pashakhontsev, Akhmedov, Lychkin (Stukas 90), Getman, Guliyev, Tagizade, Musayev (Gurbanov 58), Vasilyev (Gambarov 54), Niftaliyev. *Sent off: Tagizade 84min.*
Portugal: Vitor Baia - Secretario, Dimas, Paulo Madeira, Fernando Couto, Paulo Sousa (Nuno Capucho 67), Figo, Joao Pinto, Sa Pinto (Sergio Conceicao 46), Rui Costa, Paulo Bento (Pedro Pauleta 30).

Sep 4 - Minsk - EC qual
Belarus 1 (Baranov 30)
Wales 2 (Saunders 42, Giggs 86)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 25,000. **Ref:** Ovrebo (Nor)
Belarus: Tumilovich - Tarlovsky, Lavrik, Lukhvich, Ostrovsky, Gurenko, Baranov, Chaika, Kulchiy, Makovsky, Orlovsky (Romashchenko 60).
Wales: P Jones - Page, Barnard, Melville, Coleman, Pembridge (Robinson 82), Robinson, Saunders, Blake, Speed, Giggs.

Sep 4 - Sarajevo - EC qual
Bosnia-Herzegovina 1 (Bolic 23)
Scotland 2 (Hutchison 13, Dodds 45)
HT: 1-2. **Att:** 26,000. **Ref:** Levnikov (Rus)
Bosnia: Dedic - Joldic (Repuh 77), Mujdza (Demirovic 77), Konjic, Hibic, Besirevic, Bolic, Halilovic (Mujcin 62), Kodro, Barbarez, Topic.
Scotland: Sullivan - Weir, Hopkin, Calderwood (Dailly 46), Hendry, Ferguson (Durrant 69), Dodds, Burley, McCann, Hutchison, Collins.

Sep 4 - Zagreb - EC qual
Croatia 1 (Suker 90)
Rep Ireland 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 30,000. **Ref:** Diaz Vega (Spa)
Croatia: Ladic - Simic, Jarni, Soldo, Stimac, Bilic (Rukavina 46), Asanovic, Stanic (Simic 84), Suker, Rapajic, Kovac.
Rep Ireland: A Kelly - Carr, Staunton, Breen, Cunningham, Carsley, G Kelly (Harte 72), Kinsella, Cascarino (Quinn 82), McLoughlin, Duff (Kilbane 58).

Sep 4 - Copenhagen - EC qual
Denmark 2 (Allan Nielsen 54, Tomasson 81)
Switzerland 1 (Turkyilmaz 79)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 41,667. **Ref:** Wojcik (Pol)
Denmark: Schmeichel - Goldbaek (Colding 50), Henriksen, Hogh, Heintze, Helveg, A Nielsen (Steen Nielsen 80), Tofting, Tomasson (Wieghorst 88), Jorgensen, Sand.
Switzerland: Huber - Jeanneret, Di Jorio (Turkyilmaz 59), P Muller, Hodel, Vogel, Sesa (S Muller 77), Wicky (Wyss 89), Chapuisat, Sforza, Buhlmann.

Sep 4 - Wembley - EC qual
England 6 (Shearer pen 12, 27, 33, McManaman 29, 43, Owen 89)
Luxembourg 0
HT: 5-0. **Att:** 46,000. **Ref:** Shmolik (Bls)
England: Martyn - Dyer (G Neville 46), Keown, Adams (P Neville 65), Pearce, McManaman, Beckham (Owen 65), Batty, Parlour, Shearer, Fowler.
Luxembourg: Felgen - Feron, Schauls, Birsens, Funck, Saibene, Theis, Vanek, Schneider (Alverdi 46), Posing (Deville 83), Christophe (Zaritski 62).

Sep 4 - Toftir - EC qual
Faroe Islands 0
Estonia 2 (Reim 88, Piiroja 90)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 2,300. **Ref:** Trivkovic (Cro)
Faroes: Mikkelsen - Oli Johannesen, Jens Kristian Hansen, Thorsteinsson (Oessur Hansen 74), Hans Froedi Hansen, Samal Joensen (Jakup a Borg 89), Arge (H Jarnskor 89), Julian Johnsson, Allan Morkore, Todi Jonsson, Petersen.
Estonia: Poom - Piiroja, Kirs, Hohlov-Simson, Saviauk (Lemsalu 90), Alonen, Terehhov, Anniste (O'Konnel Bronin 67), Kristal, Reim, Zelinski (Ustritsul 75).

Sep 4 - Helsinki - EC qual
Finland 1 (Salli 63)
Germany 2 (Bierhoff 2, 17)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 20,184. **Ref:** Lopez Nieto (Spa)
Finland: Niemi (Laaksonen 46) - Ylonen (Kuqi 46), Kuivasto, Hyypia, Salli, Riihilahti, Wiss, Saastamoinen, Kottila, Tainio, J Johansson.
Germany: Lehman - Babbel, Ziege, Linke, Nowotny, Jeremies, Scholl (Nerlinger 79), Neuville (Strunz 85), Bierhoff, Matthaus, Kirsten (B Schneider 32).

Sep 4 - Reykjavik - EC qual
Iceland 3 (Thordur Gudjonsson 29, Hreidarsson 32, Eidur Gudjohnsen 90)
Andorra 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 5,100. **Ref:** Liba (Cze)
Iceland: Birkir Kristiansson - Audun Helgasson, Hriedarsson, Sigurdur Jonsson, Larus Sigurdusson (Vidarsson 26), Bjarni Gudjonsson, Gunnarsson, Tryggvi Gudmundsson, Helgi Sigurdsson (Heidar Helguson 57), Thordur Gudjonsson, Dadason (Eidur Smari Gudjohnsen 77).
Andorra: Alvarez - Martin (Armand Godoy 61), Escura, Ramirez, Jose Manuel Garcia, Sonejee, Pol (Buxo 90), Gonzalez, Jimenez, Juli Sanchez, Alex Godoy (Denis Garcia 67).

Sep 4 - Vaduz - EC qual
Liechtenstein 0
Hungary 0
Att: 1,700. **Ref:** Kaldma (Est)
Liechtenstein: Jehle - Zech - Ospelt, Hasler, Hefti, Gigon, Martin Stocklasa, Telser (Ritter 60), Michael Stocklasa - Frick (M Beck 90), T Beck (Bicker 83).
Hungary: Kiraly - Gy Korsos, V Sebok, Halmai, Matyus, Lendvai, Dardai, Illes, Dombi, Horvath, Egressy.

Sep 4 - Vilnius - EC qual
Lithuania 0
Czech Republic 4 (Nedved 60, 63, Koller 68, 90)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 3,000. **Ref:** Granat (Pol)
Lithuania: Stauce - Semberas (Skerla 55), Zvirgzdauskas, Lencevicius, D Zutatas, Razanauskas, Preiksaitis (Danilevicius 77), Mikalajunas, Tereskinas, Ivanauskas (Ramelis 38), Jankauskas. *Sent off: Jankauskas 19min.*
Czech Rep: Srnicek - Repka, Rada, Nikl - Poborsky (Sloncik 79), Bejbl, Nedved (Horvath 70), Berger, Nemec (Baranek 78) - Kuka, Koller.

Sep 4 - Belfast - EC qual
Northern Ireland 0
Turkey 3 (Arif 44, 46, 48)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 7,270. **Ref:** Sars (Fra)
N Ireland: Taylor - A Hughes, Horlock, Lomas, Williams, Hunter, McCarthy (Gillespie 62), Lennon, Dowie (Quinn 77), M Hughes, Kennedy.
Turkey: Rustu - Ali Eren Beserler, Ogun, Tayfur, Alpay, Arif (Okan 79), Abdullah (Hakan Unsal 75), Tugay, Hakan Sukur, Sergen (Umit 90), Tayfun.

Sep 4 - Oslo - EC qual
Norway 1 (Leonhardsen 34)
Greece 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 24,133. **Ref:** Merk (Ger)
Norway: Olsen - Berg, Bergdolmo, Hoftun, Heggem, Leonhardsen (Riseth 73), Mykland, Skammelsrud, Solskjaer (Rudi 67), T A Flo, Iversen.
Greece: Atmatsidis - Mavrogenidis, Kasapis, Dabizas, Ouzounidis, Poursanidis, Zagorakis (Machlas 49), Niniadis (Giannakopoulos 46), Georgatos, Limberopoulos, Nikolaidis.

Sep 4 - Moscow - EC qual
Russia 2 (Beschastnych pen 8, Karpin 70)
Armenia 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 40,000. **Ref:** Agius (Mlt)
Russia: Filimonov - Khlestov, Khokhlov, Smertin, Alenichev, Beschastnykh, Onopko, Karpin, Titov (Semak 80), Panov (Sherkov 72), Tikhonov (Yanvosky 76).
Armenia: Berezovsky - Mkrchan, Khachatryan, Hosvsepyan, Oganesyan, Vardanyan, Hachatryan (Artur Petrosyan 84), Arutunyan (Kakosyan 54), Voskanyan, Shakhgeldyan (Devani 77), Mikaelyn.

Sep 4 - Bratislava - EC qual
Slovakia 1 (Labant 22)
Romania 5 (A Ilie 6, Hagi 30, Ciobotariu 66, Moldovan 88, 90)
HT: 1-2. **Att:** 8,000. **Ref:** Cesari (Ita)
Slovakia: Konig - Karhan, P Nemeth, Kratochvil (Hrabal 74), Varga, Labant, Valachovic, Balis (Jancula 67), S Nemeth, Janocko, Fabus (Ujlaky 81).
Romania: Stelea - Petrescu, Ciobotariu, Filipescu, Galca, Gh Popescu, Sabau (Stinga 83), D Munteanu, Ganea (Moldovan 58), Hagi (Lupescu 75), A Ilie.

Sep 4 - Ljubljana - EC qual
Slovenia 2 (Acimovic 48, Zahovic 80)
Georgia 1 (Shota Arveladze 55)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 8,500. **Ref:** Wegereef (Hol)
Slovenia: Simeunovic - Osterc (Acimovic 46), Rudonja, Milinovic, Galic, Knavs, Novak, Ceh, Udovic (Karic 75), Zahovic (Istenic 90), Pavlin.
Georgia: Gvaramadze - Kobiashvili, Tsikitishvili, Didava, Sichinava, Akhvlediani (Shekiladze 46), Kaladze, Potskhveria, Kavelashvili, A Arveladze, S Arveladze.

Sep 4 - Stockholm - EC qual
Sweden 1 (Alexandersson 65)
Bulgaria 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 35,640. **Ref:** Koren (Isr)
Sweden: Hedman - Roland Nilsson, Patrik Andersson, Bjorklund, Kamark, Daniel Andersson, Mild (Magnus Svensson 83), Mjallby, Ljungberg (Alexandersson 63), Larsson, Kennet Andersson.
Bulgaria: Ivankov - Stiolov (Gruev 89), Zagorcic (Zlatko Yankov 26), Ivailo Petkov, Markov, Kirilov, Borimirov, Petrov, Hristov, Milen Petkov, Todorov. *Sent off: M Petkov 60min.*

Sep 4 - Kyiv - EC qual
Ukraine 0
France 0
Att: 70,000. **Ref:** Dallas (Sco)
Ukraine: Shovkovskyi - Luzhnyi, Popov, Holovko, Vaschuk, Dmytrulin (Mykitin 46), Husin (Tsykhmeistruk 84), Maximov (Konovalov 70), Kossovskyi, Shevchenko, Rebrov.
France: Barthez - Thuram, Lizarazu, Vieira, Blanc, Djorkaeff (Pires 73), Deschamps, Desailly, Anelka (Laslandes 55), Zidane, Karembeu.

Sunday, September 5

Sep 5 - Limassol - EC qual
Cyprus 3 (Engomitis 28, Spoljaric 53, pen 84)
Israel 2 (Badir 30, Benayoun 82)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 18,000. **Ref:** Barber (Eng)
Cyprus: Panayiotous - Kosta, Pittas, Kaiafas (Aristocleous 80), Charalambous, Melanarkitis, Engomitis, Spoljaric, Gogic (Konstantinou 72), Papavasiliou (Christodolou 64), Okkas.
Israel: Davidovitch - Harazi, Grayeb, Shelach (Sivilia 64), Banado, Hazan, Ramin, Revivo, Abuksis, Berkovic (Badir 18), Mizrahi.

Sep 5 - Belgrade - EC qual
Yugoslavia 3 (Stojkovic 37, 54, Savicevic 77)
Macedonia 1 (Ciric pen 64)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 22,000. **Ref:** Frisk (Swe)
Yugoslavia: Kralj - Mirkovic, Krstajic, Jokanovic, Djukic, Saveljic, Stankovic (Govedarica 75), Mijatovic, Milosevic (Kovacevic 82), Stojkovic (Savicevic 66), Drulovic.
Macedonia: Milosevski - Stavrevski, Jovanovski (Serafimovski 59), Lazarevski, Babunski, Savevski, Veselinovski, Micevski (Gerasimovski 53), Hristov, Ciric (Memedi 77), Saciri.

Tuesday, September 7

Sep 7 - Liege - friendly
Belgium 4 (Staelens pen 9, Walem 18, Emile Mpenza 20, Strupar 88)
Morocco 0
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Fassolis (Gre)
Belgium: De Vlieger - Deflandre (Hendrikx 46), Staelens (De Boeck 46; Hoefkens 56), Peeters, Van Kerckhoven (Brocken 46) - Vanderhaege, Walem, Goor, Verheyen (M Mpenza 72) - E Mpenza, Strupar.
Morocco: Fouhami - Saber, Naybet, El Khalej, El Hadrioui (Lahcen Abrami 46), El Kattabi (Rossi 46), Chippo, Chiba, Hadji, Kachioul (Zerouali 46), Hadda.

Sep 7 - Porto Alegre - friendly
Brazil 4 (Rivaldo 41, 42, 70, Ronaldo 82)
Argentina 2 (R Ayala 45, Ortega 88)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 49,500. **Ref:** Ruiz Acosta (Col)
Brazil: Dida - Cafu, Antonio Carlos, Scheidt, Roberto Carlos - Emerson, Vampeta (Marcos Assuncao 68), Ze Roberto (Juninho 71), Rivaldo, Ronaldinho (Elber 67), Ronaldo.
Argentina: Bonano - Vivas (Husain 72), R Ayala, Samuel, J Zanetti, Redondo (Simeone 59), Veron (Barros Schelotto 56), Sorin, Ortega, C Gonzalez (Gallardo 46), Crespo (C Lopez 79).

Sep 7 - Dhaka - Bangabandhu Cup Final
Japan 3 (Kataoka 39, 45, Takahashi 100)
Ghana 1 (Razak 55, Adamo 71)
Aet. **HT:** 2-0. **90min:** 2-2. **Att:** 40,000

Wednesday, September 8

Sep 8 - Andorra La Vella - EC qual
Andorra 1 (Justo Ruiz pen 39)
Russia 2 (Onopko 22, 57)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 1,000. **Ref:** Larsen (Den)
Andorra: Alvarez - Ramirez, Escura, Garcia, Sonejee, Lima, Gonzalez, Alex Godoy (Pol 59), Jimenez, Sanchez (Armand Godoy 89), Justo Ruiz.
Russia: Filimonov - Khlestov, Onopko, Smertin - Khokhlov (Bezrodny 55), Karpin, Alenichev (Yanovsky 61), Titov, Tikhonov - Beschastnykh (Panov 46), Shirko.

Sep 8 - Yerevan - EC qual
Armenia 2 (Mikaelyan 6, Shakhgeldyan pen 90)
France 3 (Djorkaeff pen 45, Zidane 67, Laslandes 74)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 35,000. **Ref:** Ouzounov (Bul)
Armenia: Berezovsky - Mkrtychyan, Khachatryan, Hovsepyan, Khachatryan, Yesayan, Petrosyants, Arutyunyan (Grigoryan 63), Sarkisyan, Shakhgeldyan, Mikaelyan (Devani 67).
France: Barthez - Thuram, Lizarazu, Karembeu, Blanc, Djorkaeff, Deschamps, Desailly, Laslandes, Zidane (Dehu 72), Wiltord (Robert 63). *Sent off: Dehu 89min.*

Sep 8 - Teplice - EC qual
Czech Republic 3 (Koller 26, Berger pen 59, Poborsky 67)
Bosnia 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 10,125. **Ref:** Nilsson (Swe)
Czech Rep: Srnicek - Suchoparek, Nikl, Repka, Poborsky, Nedved (Hasek 83), Bejbl, Berger, Nemec, Kuka (Baranek 79), Koller (Lokvenc 58).
Bosnia: Dedic - Joldic (Repuh 70), Besirevic, Konjic, Hibic, Ihtijarevic (Bolic 70), Varesanovic, Sabic, Barbarez, Kodro, Topic (Demirovic 70).

Sep 8 - Tallinn - EC qual
Estonia 0
Scotland 0
Att: 5,000. **Ref:** Stuchlik (Aut)

Estonia: Poom - Kirs, Hohlov-Simson, Piiroja, Saviauk - Kristal, Anniste, Reim, Terehhov - O'Konnel-Bronin (Zelinski 46), Oper.
Scotland: Sullivan - Weir, Hendry, Dailly, Johnston (McCann 54), Burley, Collins, Durrant (B Ferguson 65), Davidson - Hutchison, Dodds.

Sep 8 - Torshavn - EC qual
Faroe Islands 0
Lithuania 1 (Ramelis 55)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 450. **Ref:** Romain (Blg)
Faroes: Mikkelsen - Oli Johannesen, Jens Kristian Hansen, Thorsteinsson, Hans Froedi Hansen, Oessur Hansen, Henning Jarnskor (a Lakjuni 84), Johnsson (Benjaminsen 65), Allan Moerkore, Todi Jonsson, Arge (a Borg 46).
Lithuania: Stauce (Rodimanskas 79) - Zutautas, Vencevicius, Terskinas, Razanauskas (Skerla 77), Zvirgzdauskas, Semberas, Mikalajunas, Preiksaitis (Danilevicius 88), Skinderis, Ramelis.

Sep 8 - Tbilisi - EC qual
Georgia 2 (Shota Arveladze 30, Kavelashvili 52)
Latvia 2 (Bleidelis 62, Stepanovs 90)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Radoman (Yug)
Georgia: Gvaramadze - Didava, Kaladze, Tsereteli, Tskitishvili (Sichinava 70) - Nemsadze, Dzhamarauli, Kobiashvili, Shekiladze - Kavelashvili (Archil Arveladze 76), Shota Arveladze (Demetradze 72). *Sent off: Tsereteli 80min.*
Latvia: Kolinko - Stepanov, Lanzans (Unders 85), Zemlinski, Lobanov, Rubins, Pahars, Isakov (Babichev 60), Bleidelis, Stolcers (Sharando 75), Ivanovs.

Sep 8 - Dortmund - EC qual
Germany 4 (Bierhoff 2, Ziege 16, 33, 45)
Northern Ireland 0
HT: 4-0. **Att:** 41,000. **Ref:** Bikas (Gre)
Germany: Lehmann - Nowotny (Worns 46), Matthaus, Linke, Babbel (Strunz 31), Scholl, Jeremies, Ziege, Neuville (B Schneider 67), Bierhoff, Bode.
N Ireland: Taylor - Nolan, Williams, Morrow, Horlock, McCarthy, Lomas, Lennon (Gillespie 46), Kennedy, Dowie (J Quinn 46), Hughes.

Sep 8 - Budapest - EC qual
Hungary 3 (Sebok 28, Egressy 51, Sowunmi 55)
Azerbaijan 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 1,500. **Ref:** Lazarevski (Mac)
Hungary: Kiraly - Hrutka, Korsos, Matyus, Sebok, Halmai, Lendvai, Egressy, Sowunmi (Fuzi 89), Illes, Herczeg (F Horvath 74).
Azerbaijan: Gassan - Guetman, Pochekhuntsev, Asadov, Lytchkin (Stukas 68), Karimov (Gombarov 60), Guliev, Yadullaev, Mousaev, Vasilyev (Ismailov 90) - Nyftaliev.

Sep 8 - Reykjavik - EC qual
Iceland 0
Ukraine 1 (Rebrov pen 43)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 7,700. **Ref:** Victor Pereira (Por)
Iceland: Birkir Kristinsson - Audun Helgason, Hreidarsson, Sigurdur Jonsson (Vidarsson 85), Sigurdsson, Runar Kristinsson, Gunnarsson, Kolvidsson (Heidar Helguson 59), Marteinsson, Gudjonsson, Dadason (Eidur Smari Gudjohnsen 73).
Ukraine: Shovkovskyi - Luzhnyi (Mykitin 80), Popov, Holovko, Vaschuk, Dmytrulin, Maximov, Konovalov (Tsykhemistruk 66), Kossovksyi, Shevchenko, Rebrov.

Sep 8 - Tel Aviv - EC qual
Israel 8 (Benayoun 25, 46, 70, Mizrahi 36, Revivo 40, 68, Sivilia 84, Abuksis 89)
San Marino 0
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 20,000. **Ref:** Lihami Kaplan (Tur)
Israel: Davidovitch - A Harazi, Amsalem, Talker, Benado (Halfon 65), Hazan - Telesnikov, Revivo, Benayoun, Tikva (Abuksis 61) - Mizrahi (Sivilia 46).
San Marino: F Gasperoni - Tomassoni, M Gennari, S Bacciocche, Pelliccioni, Della Balda, N Bacciocchi (R Selva 58), B Gasperoni, Montagna (De Luigi 80), A Selva, Zonzini (Della Valle 74). *Sent off: Selva 75min.*

Sep 8 - Naples - EC qual
Italy 2 (Fuser 10, Vieri 34)
Denmark 3 (Jorgensen pen 39, Wieghorst 57, Tomasson 63)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 48,919. **Ref:** Jol (Hol)
Italy: Buffon - Panucci, Cannavaro, Nesta, Pancaro - Fuser, Di Francesco (Conte 70), Albertini, D Baggio (Giannichedda 46) - Vieri (Totti 77), F Inzaghi. *Sent off: Giannichedda 81min.*
Denmark: Schmeichel - Heintze, Henriksen, Hogh, Helveg (Goldbaek 52) - Jorgensen, Tofting (Wieghorst 52), Allan Nielsen, Colding - Tomasson (Schjonberg 83), Sand. *Sent off: Wieghorst 88min.*

Sep 8 - Yokohama - Kirin Challenge
Japan 1 (Oku 10)
Iran 1 (Ali Daei 69)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 35,860

Sep 8 - Luxembourg - EC qual
Luxembourg 0
Sweden 1 (Alexandersson 39)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 4,228. **Ref:** Hanacsek (Hun)
Luxembourg: Felgen - Strasser, Schauls, Birsens, Funck - Vanek, Posing, Saibene (Holtz 87), S Schneider (Zaritski 46), Alverdi (Theis 72) - Christophe.
Sweden: Hedman - Roland Nilsson, Patrik Andersson, Bjorklund, Lucic - Schwarz (Daniel Andersson 81), Mjallby, Alexandersson, Svensson (Zetterberg 46) - Larsson, Kennet Andersson.

Sep 8 - Skopje - EC qual
Macedonia 2 (Saqiri 59, Ciric 87)
Yugoslavia 4 (Milosevic 1, Babunski og 4, Stankovic 16, Drulovic 39)
HT: 0-4. **Att:** 18,000. **Ref:** Lubos (Slk)
Macedonia: Milosevski - Stavrevski, Jovanovski, Lazarevski, Babunski, Savevski (Gerasimovski 46), Veselinovski (Serafimovski 40), Micevski (Sainoski 41), Hristov, Ciric, Saqiri.
Yugoslavia: Kralj - Mirkovic (Komljenovic 41), Krstajic, Mihajlovic, Djukic, Jokanovic, Drulovic, Stojkovic (Savicevic 46), Dejan Stankovic, Mijatovic, Milosevic (Kovacevic 82).

Sep 8 - Valletta - EC qual
Malta 2 (Said 61, Carabott pen 68)
Rep Ireland 3 (Robbie Keane 13, Breen 20, Staunton 72)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 5,000. **Ref:** Corpodean (Rom)
Malta: Barry - Said, Chetcuti (Buhigiar 23), Carabott, Debono, Buttigieg (S Vella 29), Bussutil, Saliba, Nwoko, Camilleri, Agius (Thuma 67).
Rep Ireland: Kelly - Carr, Staunton, Breen (Harte 75), Cunningham, Carsley, Kilbane (Duff 65), Kinsella, Quinn, Robbie Keane, Kennedy (McLoughlin 54)

Sep 8 - Chisinau - EC qual
Moldova 1 (Epureanu 3)
Turkey 1 (Tayfur Havatchu 76)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 10,000. **Ref:** Schlushter (Swi)
Moldova: Dinov - Fistican, Stroenco, Guzun (Sischin 80), Oprea, Osipenco, Epureanu, Gaidamasciuc (Stratulat 46), Boret, Rebeja, Clescenco (Chirilov 85).
Turkey: Rustu - Ali Eren Beserler, Alpay, Fatih Akyel (Ayhan 46), Ogun, Tayfur, Hakan Unsal, Sergen (Umit 86), Hakan Sukur, Arif, Okan (Tugay 46).

Sep 8 - Oslo - EC qual
Norway 4 (Istenic og 15, Iversen 17, Solskjaer 30, Leonhardsen 67)
Slovenia 0
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 24,288. **Ref:** Veissiere (Fra)
Norway: F Olsen - Berg, Bergdolmo, Hoftun, Heggem, Leonhardsen, Mykland, Skammelsrud (Jan Derek Sorensen 76), Solskjaer (Riseth 76), T A Flo (Lund 87), Iversen.
Slovenia: Simeunovic (Dabanovic 46) - Knavs, Milinovic, Novak, Rudonja, Pavlin, Zahovic, Ceh, Osterc (Acimovic 83), Udovic (Karic 41), Istenic. *Sent off: Istenic 55min.*

Sep 8 - Warsaw - EC qual
Poland 0
England 0
Att: 15,000. **Ref:** Benko (Aut)
Poland: Matysek - Klos (Bak 89), Zielinski, Waldoch, Siadaczka, Iwan, Nowak, Hajto, Michalski, Gilewicz (Juskowiak 63), Trzeciak (Swierczewski 58).
England: Martyn - G Neville (P Neville 13), Keown, Adams, Pearce, Scholes, Beckham, Batty, McManaman (Dyer 79), Fowler (Owen 65), Shearer. *Sent off: Batty 83min.*

Sep 8 - Bucharest - EC qual
Romania 1 (A Ilie 37)
Portugal 1 (Figo 45)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 24,000. **Ref:** Strampe (Ger)
Romania: Stelea - Petrescu (Nanu 46), Ciobotariu, Filipescu, Galca, Gh Popescu, Sabau, D Munteanu, Moldovan (Lupescu 69), Hagi, A Ilie (Ganea 85).
Portugal: Vitor Baia - Rui Bento, Dimas, Paolo Madeira, Fernando Couto, Paulo Sousa (Sergio Conceicao 69), Figo, Joao Pinto (Pauleta 80), Sa Pinto, Rui Costa, Paulo Bento.

Sep 8 - Bratislava - EC qual
Slovakia 2 (Nemeth 4, Karhan 55)
Liechtenstein 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 3,052. **Ref:** Georgiou (Cyp)
Slovakia: Susko - Karhan, Janocko (Hrabal 41), Dzurik, Varga, Labant, Valachovic, Balis, S Nemeth (Kozuch 76), Ujlaky, Fabus (P Nemeth 61). *Sent off: Valachovic 36min.*
Liechtenstein: Jehle - Ospelt, Martin Stocklasa, Ritter, Zech, Michael Stocklasa, Thomas Beck, Frick (Buchel 12; Matthias Beck 57), Hasler, Telser, Gigon (Wohlwend 57)

Sep 8 - Badajoz - EC qual
Spain 8 (Urzaiz 20, 25, 38, Guerrero 33, 42, 56, Cesar Martin 82, Hierro 88)
Cyprus 0
HT: 5-0. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Trentalange (Ita)
Spain: Canizares (Toni 78) - Michel Salgado, Hierro, Cesar Martin, Aranzabal - Etxeberria (Munitis 46), Guardiola, Guerrero, Luis Enrique (Mendieta 60) - Raul, Urzaiz.
Cyprus: Panayiotou - Costa (Theodotou 65), Engomitis, Pittas, Louka - Melanarkitis, Christodolou, Nikolaou (Aristocleous 46), Gogic (Ioannou 88) - Papavassiliou, Okkas.

Sep 8 - Lausanne - EC qual
Switzerland 2 (Turkyilmaz 68, 86)
Belarus 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 12,500. **Ref:** Irvine (NI)
Switzerland: Huber - Henchoz, Di Jorio, Muller (Wolf 79), Hodel, Vogel, Buhlmann (Sesa 71), Wicky, Chapuisat (Comisetti 63), Sforza, Turkyilmaz.
Belarus: Afanasenko - Iakhimovich, Lavrik, Lukhvich, Ostrovski, Gurenko, Baranov, Chaika, Kulchii (Kachuro 55), Makovski (Romashchenko 69), Tarlovski.

Sep 8 - Montevideo - friendly
Uruguay 2 (Pacheco 25, Zalayeta 88)
Venezuela 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 12,000. **Ref:** Angel Sanchez (Arg)
Uruguay: Carini - Mendez, Lopez, Montero, Guigou, Romero, Coelho, O'Neill, Poyet (Olivera), Otero (Zalayeta), Pacheco.
Venezuela: Dudamel - Alvarez, Jimenez, Mea, Rojas, Vera, Bidoglio, Urdaneta, Chacon (Arango), Moran (Rondon), Garcia (Casseres).

Sep 8 - Miami, Orange Bowl - friendly
Trinidad & Tobago 4 (John 23, 59, 74, Dwarika 52)
Colombia 3 (Valenciano 19, 62, 69)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 22,000
Trinidad & Tobago: Hislop - Shurland, King, Andrews, Elcock, Eve, Rougier (Felician 78), Andrews (Trotman 60), Dwarika (Mason 89), S John, Nixon (A John 46).
Colombia: Calero - Quintana (Velasquez 81), C Asprilla, Galarcio, Cortes, Ramirez, Grisales (Mosquera 85), Viveros, Valentierra, Valenciano (Zambrano 74), Ballesteros (Castillo 65).

Sep 8 - Jamaica - friendly
Jamaica 2 (F Davis pen 14, Johnson 79)
United States 2 (Kreis 5, Albright 81)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 20,000. **Ref:** Bowen (Cay)
Jamaica: Lawrence - Davis (Green 73), Dixon, Goodison (M Johnson 70), Gardner, Sinclair, Dawes, Whitmore (D Johnson 61), Williams, Gayle, Fuller (Powell 76).
USA: Thornton (Hartman 46) - Cherundolo, Cullen, Pope (McCarty 68), Vanney, Lewis, Williams, Gutierrez (Albright 78), Olsen, McBride (Razov 46), Kreis (Wolff 46; Walsh 90). *Sent off: Razov 80min.*

Saturday, September 18

Sep 18 - Cape Town - Afro-Asian Nations Cup 1st leg
South Africa 1 (Ndlanya 48)
Saudi Arabia 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 20,000. **Ref:** Tangwarima (Zim)
South Africa: Tlale - Khomane, Fish, Issa, Tinkler, Mngomeni (Mkhalele 52), Moshoeu, McKinley (Fortune 46), Masilela, Ndlanya, McCarthy (Bartlett 74).
Saudi Arabia: Mohamed Al-Deayea - Mohamed Al-Khilawi, Abdullah Zuberomawi, Saleh Al-Dawood, Hussain Sulaimani, Ibrahim Al Harbi, Mohamed Al-Jahni, Fahad Al-Subaie, Abdullah Al-Sharani (Nawaf Al-Temyat 61), Hamzah Falatah (Fahad Mehalel 80), Marzouk Al-Otaibi (Obed Al-Dossary 56).

Thursday, September 30

Sep 30 - Riyadh - Afro-Asian Nations Cup 2nd leg
Saudi Arabia 0
South Africa 0
Att: 50,000
South Africa 1-0 on agg
Saudi Arabia: Mohammed Al-Deaiae - Saleh Al-Daoud, Mohammed Al-Khelawi, Abdullah Sulaiman, Mohammed Sheliah, Hussein Abdul Ghani, Ibrahim Mater, Nawaf Al-Temyat, Khaled Al-Timawi (Fahd Al-Subaie 80), Sami Al-Jaber (Fahd Mehalel 63), Obaid Al-Dosairi (Marzouk Al-Otaibl 71).
South Africa: Arendse - Masilela (Mnguni 61), Schoeman, Bapela, Mudau, Fish, McKinley, Mokoena, Masinga, Ngobe (Godfrey 65), Tinkler.

Tuesday, October 5

Oct 5 - Glasgow - EC qual
Scotland 1 (Collins pen 26)
Bosnia-Herzegovina 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 30,574. **Ref:** Sundell (Swe)
Scotland: Sullivan - Weir, Davidson, Lambert, Hendry (Calderwood 37), Dailly, Dodds (McSwegan 90), Burley, Gallacher (Burchill 80), Hopkin, Collins.
Bosnia: Guso - Kapetanovic, Besirevic, Hujdorovic, Varesanovic, Barbarez, Ihtijarevic (Topic 77), Sabic, Bolic, Mujcin (Avdic 84), Baljic.

Wednesday, October 6

Oct 6 - Athens - EC qual
Greece 2 (Tsartas 1, Georgiadis 87)
Albania 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 8,000
Greece: Atmatzidis - Amanatidis, Georgatos (Konstantinidis 66), Ouzounidis, Poursanidis, Zagorakis (Georgiadis 46), Dabizas, Zikos, Machlas, Tsartas (Niniadis 74), Nikolaidis.
Albania: Strakosha - Murati, Haxhi, Lala, Xhumba, Vata, Bushi, Bellai (Bogdani 83), Rrakli, Kola, Tare (Muka 68).

Oct 6 - Los Angeles - Concacaf Gold Cup qual
Canada 0
Cuba 0
Att: 20,000

Oct 6 - Los Angeles - Concacaf Gold Cup qual
El Salvador 1 (Montes 3)
Haiti 1 (Decolines 80)
HT: 1-0. Att: 20,000

Friday, October 8

Oct 8 - Los Angeles - Concacaf Gold Cup qual
Canada 2 (Corazzin 10, Fletcher 60)
El Salvador 1 (Diaz Arce pen 47)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 25,000. **Ref:** Archundia (Mex)
Sent off: Cienfuegos 38min (El Salvador).

Oct 8 - Los Angeles - Concacaf Gold Cup qual
Haiti 1 (Descolines 75)
Cuba 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 25,000

Saturday, October 9

Oct 9 - Tirana - EC qual
Albania 2 (Rraklli 30, Kola 36)
Georgia 1 (Shota Arveladze 52)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 3,000. **Ref:** Mikalef (Mlt)
Albania: Beqaj - Duro, Shulku, Xhumba, Vata, Fakaj, Lala, Bushi (Murati 54), Kola, Rraklli (Muka 75), Tare (Bogdani 90).
Georgia: Chanturia - Kobiashvili, Gakhokidze, Didava, Shekiladze, Chichveishvili, Nemsadze, Jamarauli, Kaladze, Archil Arveladze (Janashia 83), Shota Arveladze.

Oct 9 - Andorra La Vella - EC qual
Andorra 0
Armenia 2 (Artur Petrosyan 26, Yesoyan 59, Shakhgeldyan 63)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 700. **Ref:** Jones (Eng)
Andorra: Alvarez - Ramirez, Jordi Escura, Sonejee, Txema Garcia (Jonas Alonso 58), Lima, Godoy (Pol 46), Emiliano Gonzalez (Soria 62), Jimenez, Juli Sanchez, Justo Ruiz.
Armenia: Abramyan - Sukiasyan, Voskanyan, Mortychyan, Khachatryan, Vardanyan, Artur Petrosyan (Harobian 79), Tigran Petrosyants (Kpcharyan 82), Sarkisyan, Shakhgeldyan (Minasyan 78), Yesoyan. *Sent off: Sarkisyan 31min.*

Oct 9 - Baku - EC qual
Azerbaijan 0
Slovakia 1 (Labant 70)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 8,000. **Ref:** Vassaras (Gre)
Azerbaijan: Kramarenko - Agayev (Kerimov 80), Pashokhontsev, Akhmedov, Isayev (Ismailov 56), Getman, Yadullayev, Gambarov (Lychkin 46), Musayev, Vasilyev, Niftaliyev.
Slovakia: Susko - Kozak, Sucanchak, Kratochvil, Varga, Labant (Kozuch 84), Timko, Karhan (Zeman 86), Nemeth, Janocko (Pinter 90), Fabus.

Oct 9 - Minsk - EC qual
Belarus 0
Italy 0
Att: 32,000. **Ref:** Colombo (Fra)
Belarus: Shantolosov - Yakhimovich, Tarlovksy, Lukhvich, Ostrovsky, Gurenko, Baranov, Orlovsky, Chaika, Romashchenko (Makovsk 46), Gerasimets (Kulchiy 79).
Italy: Buffon - Panucci, Maldini, Di Biagio, Cannavaro, Nesta, Moriero, Conte, F Inzaghi, Vieri (Del Piero 82), Zambrotta.

Oct 9 - Zagreb - EC qual
Croatia 2 (Boksic 20, Stanic 47)
Yugoslavia 2 (Mijatovic 26, D Stankovic 31)
HT: 1-2. **Att:** 40,000. **Ref:** Garcia Aranda (Spa)
Croatia: Ladic - Rukavina, Jarni, Soldo, Juric, Tudor (Rapajic 82), Asanovic, Stanic, Suker, R Kovac (Biscan 61), Boksic (Simic 77).
Yugoslavia: Kralj - Mirkovic, Djorovic, Jokanovic, Djukic, D Stankovic, Nadj (Drulovic 58), Mijatovic (Savicevic 73), Milosevic, Stojkovic (Bolic 54), Mihajlovic. *Sent off: Mirkovic 42min.*

Oct 9 - Prague - EC qual
Czech Republic 2 (Koller 11, Verbir 84)
Faroe Islands 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 21,362. **Ref:** Lica (Rom)
Czech Rep: Srnicek - Repka, Suchoparek (Verbir 74), Baranek (Hornak 58), Rada, Bejbl (Horvath 66), Nemec, Poborsky, Koller, Smicer, Berger. *Sent off: Berger 59min.*
Faroe Islands: Knudsen - Oli Johannesen, Jens Kristian Hansen, Pol Thorsteinsson, Frodi, Samal Joensen, Hennig Jarnskor Hansen (Ossur Hansen 88), Julian Johnsson, Allan Morkore, Todi Jonsson, Petersen (Jakosen 72). *Sent off: Thorsteinsson 59min.*

Oct 9 - Tallinn - EC qual
Estonia 1 (Oper 4)
Bosnia 4 (Baljic 42, 57, 67, 87)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 1,200. **Ref:** Luinge (Hol)
Estonia: Kaalma - Piiroja, Kirs, Hohlov-Simson, Anniste (Saviauk 61), Alonen, Terehhov (O'Konnel-Dronin 74), Oper, Kristal, Reim, Zelinski (Viikmae 40).
Bosnia: Guso - Joldic, Kapetanovic, Hujdorovic, Varesanovic, B Besirevic, Ihtijarevic, Sabic (Duro 60), Bolic (Mujcin 80), Baljic (Avdic), Topic.

Oct 9 - Helsinki - EC qual
Finland 4 (Johansson 9, Hyypia 63, Kolkka 73, 83)
Northern Ireland 1 (Jeff Whitley 59)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 8,217. **Ref:** Ancion (Blg)
Finland: Viander - Lehkosuo, Kuivasto, Hyypia, Tihinen, Wiss (Yla-Jussila 86), Kolkka, Riihilahti (Valakari 86), Litmanen, Paatelainen, Johansson.
N Ireland: Taylor - Jenkins (Jim Whitley 79), Williams, Morrow, Nolan, McCarthy, Jeff Whitley, Lennon, Kennedy, Hughes (Johnson 74), Quinn (Coote 68).

Oct 9 - Paris - EC qual
France 3 (Dadason og 17, Djorkaeff 38, Trezeguet 71)
Iceland 2 (Eyjolfur Sverrisson 47, Brynar Gunnarsson 56)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 80,000. **Ref:** Heynemann (Ger)
France: Lama - Thuram, Blanc, Desailly, Lizarazu, Deschamps, Boghossian (Vieira 90), Zidane, Djorkaeff, Laslandes (Trezeguet 67), Wiltord (Vairelles 84).
Iceland: Birkir Kristinsson - Audun Helgason, Larus Orri Sigurdsson, Petur Marteinsson, Hermann Hreidarsson, Eyjolfur Sverrisson, Runar Kristinsson, Brynjar Gunnarsson, Thordur Gudjonsson (Gudjohnsen 74), Helgi Sigurdsson (Heidar Helguson 77), Rikhardur Dadason.

Oct 9 - Munich - EC qual
Germany 0
Turkey 0
Att: 63,572. **Ref:** Collina (Ita)
Germany: Kahn - Babbel, Ziege (Bode 76), Linke, B Schneider (Dogan 88), Jeremies, Scholl, Hamann (Nerlinger 46), Bierhoff, Matthaus, Neuville.
Turkey: Rustu - Ali Eren, Ogun Temizkanoglu, Fatih Akyel, Alpay, Abdullah (Ergun 69), Tayfun, Tayfur (Oktay 85), Hakan Sukur, Sergen Yalcin, Okan Buruk (Arif 70).

Oct 9 - Amsterdam - friendly
Holland 2 (Roberto Carlos og 37, Zenden 43)
Brazil 2 (Roberto Carlos 55, Cafu 72)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 51,000. **Ref:** Merk (Ger)
Holland: Van der Sar - R De Boer, Konterman, Bogarde, Van Hintum, Winter (Van Gastel 46), Bergkamp (Van Nistelrooy 70), Van Bronckhorst, Kluivert, Seedorf, Zenden (Van Vossen 83).
Brazil: Dida - Cafu, Antonio Carlos, Roque Junior, Roberto Carlos, Emerson, Vampeta (Juninho 46), Rivaldo, Felipe (Ronaldinho 67), Ronaldo (Marcos Assuncao 76), Elber (Savio 46).

Oct 9 - Riga - EC qual
Latvia 1 (Pahars 52)
Norway 2 (Solskjaer 51, Flo 85)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 2,500. **Ref:** Drabek (Aut)
Latvia: Kolinko - Lukashevics (Laizans 82), Astafjevs, Zemlinskis, Lobanovs, Blagonadezdins, Ivanovs, Bleidelis, Pahars, Rubins, Stolcers.
Norway: F Olsen - Bergdolmo, Hoftun, Berg, Heggem, Iversen (Lund 46), Mykland (Solbakken 82), Leonhardsen, T A Flo, Solskjaer (Riseth 87), Skammelsrud.

Oct 9 - Vaduz - EC qual
Liechtenstein 0
Romania 3 (Rosu 26, Ganea 65, 73)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 2,900. **Ref:** Butenko (Rus)
Liechtenstein: Jehle - Ospelt, Martin Stocklasa, Hefti, Zech, Ritter, Christoph Frick (Wohlwend 89), Mario Frick, Thomas Beck, Telser (Bicker 69), Mathias Beck.
Romania: Stelea - Petrescu, Nanu, Ciobotariu, Galca (Lupescu 68), Gheorghe Popescu, Petre, Rosu, Moldovan (Ganea 62), Hagi (Stinga 70), Adrian Ilie.

Oct 9 - Skopje - EC qual
Macedonia 1 (Stavrevski 90)
Rep Ireland 1 (Quinn 18)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 6000. **Ref:** Fernandez Marin (Spa)
Macedonia: Filevski - Stavrevski, Jovanovski, Sedloski, Babunski, Gerasimovski, Stojanovski (Beqiri 56), Savevski, Hristov, Sainovski, Stanik (Memedi 79).
Rep Ireland: A Kelly - Irwin, Staunton, Breen, Cunningham, McLoughlin, G Kelly, Kinsella, Quinn (Cascarino 79), Robbie Keane (Keith O'Neill 68), Kennedy (Holland 87).

Oct 9 - Lisbon - EC qual
Portugal 3 (Rui Costa pen 15, Joao Pinto 16, Abel Xavier 58)
Hungary 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 65,000. **Ref:** Milton Nielsen (Den)
Portugal: Vitor Baia - Secretario (Abel Xavier 46), Paulo Madeira, Jorge Costa, Dimas, Paulo Sousa, Rui Costa (Paulo Bento 84), Luis Figo, Sergio Conceicao, Joao Pinto (Sa Pinto 89), Pauleta. *Sent off: Pauleta 41min.*
Hungary: Kiraly - Korsos, Dragoner, Lakos, Matyus, Lendvai, Halmai, Pisont (Dardai 24), Sowunmi (Z Kovacs 83), F Horvath (Kuttor 75), Egressy.

Oct 9 - Moscow - EC qual
Russia 1 (Karpin 75)
Ukraine 1 (Shevchenko 87)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 80,000. **Ref:** Elleray (Eng)
Russia: Filimonov - Khlestov, Khokhlov, Smertin, Alenichev, Drozdov, Onopko, Karpin, Titov, Panov (Semak 80), Tikhonov (Beschastnykh 60).
Ukraine: Shovkovskyi - Luzhnyi, Mizin, Holovko, Vaschuk, Dmytrulin (Kovalev 76), Maximov (Moroz 76), Husin, Skachenko (Mykitin 42), Shevchenko, Rebrov.

Oct 9 - Glasgow, Hampden - EC qual
Scotland 3 (Hutchison 48, McSwegan 50, Cameron 88)
Lithuania 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 22,059. **Ref:** Bre (Fra)
Scotland: Gould - Weir, Davidson, Lambert, O'Neil, Ritchie, Dailly, Burley (Cameron 46), Burchill (Dodds 79), Hutchison, McSwegan (Gallacher 83).
Lithuania: Leus - Zutautas, Zvirgzauskas, Skinderis, Skerla, Stumbrys (Vencevicius 54), Razanauskas, Mikalajunas, Teresinkus (Fomenko 64), Dancenko (Maciulevicius 54), Mikulenas.

Oct 9 - Maribor - EC qual
Slovenia 0
Greece 3 (Tsartas 39, Georgiadis 43, Nikolaidis 73)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 2,500. **Ref:** Gamel Ghandour (Egy)
Slovenia: Simeunovic - Bajrektarevic, Rudonja, Vugdalic (Englaro 84), Galic, Seslar, Novak, Ceh, Udovic (Karic 46), Acimovic, Simundza (Osterc 60).
Greece: Atmatsidis - Amanatidis, Zikos, Dabizas, Antzas (Zagorakis 71), Poursanidis, Georgiadis, Konstantinidis, Limberopulos, Tsartas (Ninaidis 69), Nikolaidis (Machlas 75).

Oct 9 - Stockholm - EC qual
Sweden 2 (K Andersson 64, Larsson 90)
Poland 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 35,037. **Ref:** Meier (Swi)
Sweden: Hedman - R Nilsson (Sundgren 46), P Andersson, Bjorklund, Kamark, Schwarz, Alexandersson, Mjallby, Ljungberg (Mild 83), Larsson, K Andersson.
Poland: Matysek - Klos, Waldoch, Siadaczka, Zielinski, Hajto, P Swierczewski (Wichniarek 89), Michalski, Juskowiak (Kryszalowicz 81), Czereszewski (K Nowak 73), Trzeciak.

Oct 9 - Wrexham - EC qual
Wales 0
Switzerland 2 (Rey 16, Buhlmann 59)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 5,064. **Ref:** Papadakos (Gre)
Wales: Paul Jones - Delaney, Barnard, Page, Coleman, Savage, Robinson, Saunders (Hartson 66), Blake (Roberts 77), Speed, Oster (Matthew Jones 77).
Switzerland: Zuberbuhler - Haas, Di Jorio, Henchoz, Hodel, Vogel, Sesa, Jaquet (Wyss 70), Rey (Comisetti 66), Jeanneret, Buhlmann.

Sunday, October 10

Oct 10 - Los Angeles - CONCACAF Gold Cup qual
Canada 2 (Corazzin 9, 43)
Haiti 1 (Descolines 48)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 3,605. **Ref:** Sabillon (Hon)

Oct 10 - Los Angeles - CONCACAF Gold Cup qual
El Salvador 1 (Diaz Arce 63)
Cuba 3 (Bobadilla 43, Prado 75, Roldan 90)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 3,605. **Ref:** Badilla (CR)

GOLD CUP QUALIFYING – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Canada	3	2	0	1	4	2	7
Cuba	3	1	1	1	3	2	4
Haiti	3	1	1	1	3	3	4
El Salvador	3	0	2	1	3	6	1

Oct 10 - Vienna - EC qual
Austria 3 (Glieder 5, Vastic 23, Herzog 81)
Cyprus 1 (Costas 63)
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Bazzoli (Ita)
Austria: Manninger - Vastic, Winklhofer, Neukirchner (Herzog 46), Cerny, Kuehbauer, Ibertsberger, Weissenberger, Kirchler, Glieder, Mayrleb. *Sent off: Ibertsberger 76min.*
Cyprus: Panayiotou - C Costa, Charalambous, Alexandrou, Engomitis, Kaiafas, Malanarkitis, Spoljaric, M S Christodolou, Gogic (Agathocleous 26), Okkas. *Sent off: Kaiafas 30min, Spoljaric 45min.*

Oct 10 - Sofia - EC qual
Bulgaria 3 (Borimirov 40, Petkov 68, Hristov 78)
Luxembourg 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 4,000. **Ref:** Gadosi (Slk)
Bulgaria: Zdravkov - Zagorcic (B Ivanov 84), Stoilov, I Petkov, Yordanov, G Markov, Borimirov, S Petrov, Hristov (Todorov 64), Alexandrov, Bachev (Hristov 51).
Luxembourg: Felgen - Vanek, Schauls, Birsens, Strasser, Saibene, Alverdi (Theis 71), Posing (Deville 59), Christophe, Cardoni (Holtz 85), Zaritski.

Oct 10 - Copenhagen - friendly
Denmark 0
Iran 0
Att: 13,131. **Ref:** Blareau (Blg)
Denmark: Schmeichel - Colding, Henriksen, Hogh, Heintze (Schjonberg 46), Helveg, A Nielsen, Toefting (Wieghorst 72), Goldbaek (Frandsen 85), Tomasson, Sand (S Andersen 72).
Iran: Mirtabatabaei - Mahdavikia, Rahbarifar, Hasheminasb, Estili (Majidi 83), Daei, Mousavi (Basirat 83), Yazdani, Halali (Navazi 54), Emamifar, Zarincheh.

Oct 10 - Sunderland - friendly
England 2 (Shearer 6, Redknapp 67)
Belgium 1 (Strupar 14)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 40,897. **Ref:** Frisk (Swe)
England: Seaman (Martyn 46) - Dyer (P Neville 58), Adams, Southgate, Keown, Guppy, Ince, Redknapp, Lampard (Wise 76), Shearer (Heskey 86), Phillips (Owen 58).
Belgium: De Vlieger (Gaspercic 46) - Deflandre, Van Meir, Peeters, Oyen, Tanghe (Walem 46), Vanderhaeghe, Van Kerckhoven, Wilmots, Strupar (Brogno 74), De Bilde.

Oct 10 - Albacete - EC qual
Spain 3 (Morientes 30, Cesar Martin 37, Raul 51)
Israel 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 12,000. **Ref:** Krug (Ger)
Spain: Toni - Michel Salgado, Hierro (Cesar Martin 22), Paco Jemez, Sergi, Etxeberria, Guardiola, Luis Enrique, Guerrero (Mendieta 70), Morientes (Urzaiz 75), Raul.
Israel: Awat - Gershon, Amsalem, Shelah, Benado (Halfon 49), Hazan (Telesnikov 80), Banin, Tal, Berkovic (Benayoun 67), Revivo, Turjeman.

OTHER MATCHES

Sep 8 (Tokyo): Japan U-22 4 South Korea U-22 1.
Sep 27 (Seoul): South Korea U-22 0 Japan U-22 1 (Fukuda 81).

ALL-AFRICA GAMES

(Johannesburg)
Final: Cameroon 0 Zambia 0 (Cameroon 4-3 on pens).

EUROPEAN UNDER-21 CHAMPIONSHIP

Group 1

Sep 3: (Borisov) Belarus 1 (Lanko 90) Wales 0; (Odense) Denmark 1 (Morten Petersen 84) Switzerland 3 (Cabanas 8, H Yakin 16, Thurre 84).
Sep 7: (Nyon) Switzerland 2 (Thurre 17, Seoane 63) Belarus 1 (Razumau 45).
Sep 8: (Cava dei Tirreni) Italy 3 (Coco 3, Ventola 77, Petersen og 88) Denmark 1 (Smith 66).
Oct 8: (Minsk) Belarus 1 (Razumov 41) Italy 2 (Spinesi 31, Margiotta 90); (Newtown) Wales 0 Switzerland 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Italy	8	7	1	0	20	7	22
Switzerland	8	4	2	2	8	4	14
Denmark	8	3	1	4	11	13	10
Belarus	8	2	1	5	5	12	7
Wales	8	0	3	5	6	14	3

Group 2

Sep 3: (Honefoss) Norway 2 (Kippe 11, Lange 71) Greece 1 (Karagounis pen 6).
Sep 4: (Tirana) Albania 1 (Arberi 15) Latvia 1 (Dobrecovs 83); (Ljubljana) Slovenia 2 (Sankovic 17, Pitamic 86) Georgia 2 (Sengelia 45, Aleksidze 66).
Sep 7: (Tbilisi) Georgia 4 (Khizanishvili 23, Shengelia 30, Alexidze 55, 69) Latvia 2 (Dobretsovs pen 39, Solonitsins 85); (Drammen) Norway 3 (Helstad 15, Hoseth 66, Reese 90) Slovenia 0.
Sep 8: (Athens) Greece 5 (Karagounis pen 8, Pandelis Kafes 37, 52, Lambros Houtos 66, 77) Albania 2 (Markosi 20, Luan Pinari pen 57).
Oct 8: (Tirana) Albania 0 Georgia 0; (Riga) Latvia 2 (Kolesnichenko 10, Bezzubov 84) Norway 1 (Lange 87); (Ljubljana) Slovenia 0 Greece 5 (Choutos 10, 54, 66, Konstantinidis 27, Karagkounis pen 56).

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Greece	10	7	2	1	32	10	23
Norway	10	7	1	2	21	8	22
Georgia	10	2	5	3	11	13	11
Latvia	10	2	3	5	8	19	9
Slovenia	10	1	5	4	10	19	8
Albania	10	1	4	5	8	21	7

Group 3

Sep 3: (Helsinki) Finland 3 (Forssell 20, 41, Pohja 90) Germany 1 (Blank 44); (Lurgan) Northern Ireland 1 (Griffin 20) Turkey 2 (Albayrak 5, Goktan 7).
Sep 7: (Chisinau) Moldova 1 (Lungu 43) Turkey 1 (Emre Beluzoglu 68); (Ludenscheid) Germany 1 (Voigt pen 72) N Ireland 0.
Oct 8: Finland 2 Northern Ireland 1; Germany 1 Turkey 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Turkey	8	4	4	0	11	4	16
Germany	8	4	1	3	9	7	13
Finland	8	3	4	1	9	7	13
N Ireland	8	1	3	4	5	9	6
Moldova	8	0	4	4	3	10	4

Group 4

Sep 3: (Kyiv) Ukraine 0 France 0.
Sep 4: (Moscow) Russia 6 (Gusev 21, pen 30, Bezrodny 48, Savelyev 51, Zakaryan og 84, Adiyev 90) Armenia 0.
Sep 8: (Gyumri) Armenia 1 France 4; (Reykjavik) Iceland 4 (Hjarartason 20, 58, Gudmondsson 52, 84) Ukraine 1 (Viti 75).
Oct 9: (Blois) France 2 (Sagnol pen 43, Sakho 59) Iceland 0; (Moscow) Russia 2 (Gusev 11, 25) Ukraine 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
France	8	6	1	1	18	4	19
Russia	8	6	0	2	17	5	18
Ukraine	8	3	2	3	16	12	11
Iceland	8	2	0	6	9	18	6
Armenia	8	1	1	6	6	27	4

Group 5

Sep 3: (Visby) Sweden 1 (Touma 54) Bulgaria 4 (Berbatov 9, 65, Boukarev 84, Fakaliev 90); (Reading) England 5 (Gerrard 13, Jeffers 31, Hendrie 62, Cort 69, Lampard 81) Luxembourg 0.
Sep 7: (Luxembourg) Luxembourg 0 Sweden 1 (Lindstroem 37); (Plock) Poland 3 (Robinson og 46, Dawidowski 57, Sobczak 61) England 0.
Oct 8: (Vasteras) Sweden 1 (Kennedy Bakircioglu 56) Poland 2 (Nils-Eric Johansson og 17, Dawidowskij 49); (Vratsa) Bulgaria 3 (Chilikov 42, 55, Petrov 80) Luxembourg 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
England	8	7	0	1	23	3	21
Poland	8	5	2	1	21	12	17
Bulgaria	8	4	2	2	17	9	14
Sweden	8	2	0	6	7	15	6
Luxembourg	8	0	0	8	0	29	0

Group 6

Sep 3: (Herzogenburg) Austria 1 (Stanzl 81) Spain (Gerard 28, Jose Marie 30).
Sep 4: (Larnaca) Cyprus 1 (Neophytou 16) Israel 1 (Udi 10).
Sep 7: (Herzliya) Israel 0 Holland 1 (Bouma 32); (Almendralejo) Spain 1 (Farinos 90) Cyprus 1 (Poyadjis 61).
Oct 9: (Villarrobledo) Spain 2 (Alvaro Rubio 31, Xavi pen 74) Israel 1 (Sarfaty pen 36); (Schrems) Austria 3 (Plassnegger pen 71, Stranzl 73, Pamminger 78) Cyprus 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Spain	8	7	1	0	21	5	22
Holland	8	6	0	2	17	8	18
Israel	8	2	2	4	6	13	8
Cyprus	8	1	3	4	7	18	6
Austria	8	1	0	7	8	15	3

Group 7

Sep 2: (Sumgait) Azerbaijan 0 Portugal 2 (Simao Sabrosa 30pen, Silva Moreira 87).
Sep 3: (Bratislava) Slovakia 0 Romania 0.
Sep 7: (Bucharest) Romania 2 (Pancu pen 8, Radu 58) Portugal 3 (Simao Sabrosa 32, Delfim 43, 64); (Budapest) Hungary 4 (Szabics 7, Stark 22, Ferenczi 41, 82) Azerbaijan 1 (Aliev 71).
Oct 8: (Baku) Azerbaijan 0 Slovakia 3 (Bagnic 34pen, Kisel 71, Mesaros 90); (Estoril) Portugal 2 (Marco Almeida 72, Gomes Lixa 74) Hungary 1 (Ferenczi 67).

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Slovakia	8	5	2	1	12	6	17
Portugal	8	5	2	1	17	6	17
Romania	8	3	3	2	10	8	12
Hungary	8	2	0	6	12	16	6
Azerbaijan	8	1	1	6	5	20	4

(Slovakia win group with a superior record than Portugal in theirdirect meetings)

Group 8

Sep 3: (Zagreb) Croatia 5 (Pilipovic 13, Sokota 22, Mikic 24, Balaban 89, 90) Rep Ireland 1 (Hawkins 41).
Sep 4: (Belgrade) Yugoslavia 2 (Jelic 29, 37) Macedonia 0.
Sep 7: (Skopje) Macedonia 0 Yugoslavia 8 (Lazetic 7, 58, Kezman 32, 34, 63, Tanasijevic 55, Jelic 70, 88); (Valletta) Malta 1 (Mamo 89) Rep Ireland 3 (Grimma og 36, Mahon 70, Fenn 88).
Oct 8: (Skopje) Macedonia 0 Rep Ireland 1 (Rowlands 33); Croatia 2 Yugoslavia 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Croatia	8	6	2	0	25	7	20
Yugoslavia	8	5	2	1	29	10	17
Rep Ireland	8	4	2	2	13	12	14
Malta	8	1	0	7	8	23	3
Macedonia	8	1	0	7	2	25	3

Group 9

Sep 3: (Vilnius) Lithuania 0 Czech Republic 2 (Kuchera 48, Dashek 68); (Tongeren) Belgium 5 (Sonck 6, 52, Roussel 32, 58, 59) Estonia 0.
Sep 4: (Lukavac) Bosnia 2 (Avdic pen 25, Dujmovic 57) Scotland 5 (Burchill 12, 50, 79, Thompson 69, Paterson 87).
Sep 7: (Brussels) Belgium 3 (Sonck 45, Van Buyten 58, Somers 90) Lithuania 0; (Blsany) Czech Republic 1 (Heinz 83) Bosnia 0; (Tallinn) Estonia 0 Scotland 4 (Rae 20, Burchill 21, Thompson 38, Dalglish pen 89).
Oct 8: (Haapsalu) Estonia 0 Bosnia 2 (Ferhatovic 56, 59); (Firhill) Scotland 1 (Easton 40) Lithuania 2 (Ksanavicius 1, Laurisas 43); Czech Republic 1 Belgium 3.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Belgium	10	8	1	1	31	9	25
Czech Republic	10	8	1	1	17	5	25
Lithuania	10	5	1	4	14	10	16
Scotland	10	4	2	4	18	12	14
Bosnia	10	2	1	7	11	24	7
Estonia	10	0	0	10	4	35	0

(Belgium win group with a superior record than the Czech Republic in theirdirect meetings)

EUROPE

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

FIRST GROUP STAGE

1st matchday (Sep 14)

GROUP A

Bayer Leverkusen 1 (Neuville 14)
Lazio 1 (Mihajlovic 18)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 22,500. **Ref:** Poll (Eng)
Leverkusen: Matysek - R Kowak, Nowotny, Gresko (Beinlich 67), B Schneider, Ramelow, Emerson, Ze Roberto, Hejduk, Reichenberger (Robson Ponte 82), Neuville (Brdaric 73).
Lazio: Marchegiani - Negro, Nesta, Mihajlovic, Pancaro, Stankovic, Almeyda, Lombardo, Mancini (Nedved 76), Veron (Simeone 50), Boksic (Salas 80).

Kyiv Dynamo 0
Maribor Teatanic 1 (Simundza 74)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 30,000. **Ref:** Irvine (NI)
Dynamo: Shovkovskyi - Guerasimenko (Konovalov 70), Holovko, Vaschuk, Dmytrulin, Kaladze, Kormiltsev (Fedorov 60), Husin, Kossovskyi, Shatskih (Venhlinskyi 66), Rebrov.
Maribor: Simeunovic - Seslar, Zidan, Karic, Simundza (Filipovic 82), Cipi, Balajic (Vugdalic 64), Djuranovic, Galic, Bozgo (Pregelj 90), Sarkezi.

GROUP B

AIK 1 (Novakovic 72)
Barcelona 2 (Abelardo 86, Dani 90)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 30,543. **Ref:** Sars (Fra)
AIK: Asper - Kjolo, Ljung, Brundin, Kamark (Corneliusson 86), Lagerlof, Nordin, Andersson, Tjernstrom (Bergh 77), Novakovic (Matti 86).
Barcelona: Hesp - R De Boer, F De Boer, Bogarde (Abelardo 27), Sergi, Xavi (Gabri 79), Cocu, Figo, Kluivert (Dani 74), Litmanen, Rivaldo.

Fiorentina 0
Arsenal 0
Att: 37,000. **Ref:** Krug (Ger)
Fiorentina: Toldo - Repka, Padalino, Pierini (Adani 84), Heinrich, Di Livio, Rui Costa, Cois, Mijatovic, Batistuta, Chiesa.
Arsenal: Manninger - Adams, Keown, Luzhnyi, Winterburn, Grimandi, Vieira, Ljungberg, Bergkamp (Henry 82), Overmars, Suker (Kanu 61).

GROUP C

Boavista 0
Rosenborg 3 (Sorensen 10, Berg 43, Strand 73)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 8,000. **Ref:** Cesari (Ita)
Boavista: Bassey - Paulo Sousa, Pedro Emanuel, Litos Magalhaes, Mario Silva, Rui Bento, Luis Manuel (Emanuel 46), Timofte (Formoso 9), Jorge Couto, Gilmar Estevan (Whellington Silva 54), Ahinful.
Rosenborg: Jamtfall - Johnsen, Bragstad, Hoftun, Bergdolmo, Strand (Winsnes 89), Skammelsrud, Berg, Jakobsen, Sorensen (Dahlum 82), Carew.

Feyenoord 1 (Van Wonderen 67)
Borussia Dortmund 1 (Bobic 71)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 35,000. **Ref:** Garcia Aranda (Spa)
Feyenoord: Dudek - Bosvelt, Van Wonderen, Konterman, Rzasa (De Visser 46), Van Gastel, Tomasson, Paauwe, Kalou, Cruz, Van Vossen (Samardzic 82).
Dortmund: Lehmann - Reuter, Evanilson, Nijhuis (Barbarez 77), Ricken, Stevic (Feiersinger 66), Nerlinger, Dede, Muller, Reina, Bobic (Herrlich 90).

GROUP D

Manchester United 0
Croatia Zagreb 0
Att: 53,250. **Ref:** Levnikov (Rus)
Man Utd: Van Der Gouw - Clegg (Fortune 76), Stam, Berg, P Neville, Beckham, Wilson (Sheringham 61), Scholes, Giggs, Cole, Yorke.
Croatia: Ladic - Tokic, Juric, Tomas, Saric, Jurcic, Mujcin (Mumlek 70), Biscan, Cvitanovic, Simic (Mikic 67), Rukavina (Sokota 89).

Marseille 2 (Pires 9, Ravanelli 33)
Sturm Graz 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 35,000. **Ref:** Oguz Sarvan (Tur)
Marseille: Porato - Perez, Gallas, Berizzo, Blondeau, Brando, Luccin, Dalmat (Belmadi 76), Pires, Ravanelli (Keita 88), Maurice (Diawara 83).
Sturm: Schicklgruber - Neukirchner (Kutsupias 82), Foda, Feldhofer, Kocijan, Prilasnig, Schupp, Mahlich, Martens (Korsos 46), Vastic, Reinmayr (Pantelic 46).

(Sep 15)

GROUP E

Molde 0
FC Porto 1 (Deco 89)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 9,000. **Ref:** Hamer (Lux)
Molde: Bakke - Strande, Fostervold, Tessem, Dos Santos, Berg Hestad, Fjortoft (Sundgot 88), Hoseth, Olsen, Lund, Mork (Lindbaek 46).
Porto: Vitor Baia - Jorge Costa, Argel, Peixe (Paulinho Santos 82), Secretario, Drulovic (Aloisio 90), Jardel, Chainho, Nuno Capucho (Alessandro 54), Deco, Esquerdinha.

Olympiakos 3 (Giovanni 11, 64, Zahovic 67)
Real Madrid 3 (Savio 24, Roberto Carlos 32, Raul 80)
HT: 1-2. **Att:** 80,000. **Ref:** Van der Ende (Hol)
Olympiakos: Eleftheropoulos - Karataidis, Amanatidis, Poursanidis, Giannakopoulos (Gogic 60), Giovanni, Djordjevic, Mavrogenidis (Amponsah 46), Ofori-Quaye, Zahovic, Anatolakis.
Real Madrid: Casillas - Michel Salgado, Roberto Carlos, Hierro (Helguera 60), Redondo (Guti 73), Raul, McManaman, Morientes (Anelka 54), Savio, Geremi, Julio Cesar.

GROUP F

Bayern Munich 2 (Paulo Sergio 11, 69)
PSV Eindhoven 1 (Khokhlov 59)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 32,000. **Ref:** Veissiere (Fra)
Bayern: Kahn - Andersson, Matthaus, Kuffour, Jeremies, Effenberg, Strunz, Lizarazu, Paulo Sergio (Zickler 79), Scholl (Salihamidzic 87), Santa Cruz (Jancker 68).
PSV: Waterreus - Nikiforov (Bouma 82), Faber, Dirkx (Bruggink 77), Heintze, Iwan, Vogel, Van Bommel, Khokhlov, Van Nistelrooy, Nilis. *Sent off: Van Bommel 90min.*

Valencia 2 (Kily Gonzalez 57, 74)
Rangers 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 35,000. **Ref:** Michel (Sik)
Valencia: Canizares - Angloma, Bjorklund, Pellegrino, Carboni, Mendieta, Lopez, Kily Gonzalez, Albelda, Claudio Lopez (A Ilie 71), Sanchez (Angulo 80).
Rangers: Charbonnier - Porrini (Kanchelskis 72), Moore, Amoruso, Vidmar, B Ferguson, Van Bronckhorst (Johansson 85), McCann (Albertz 46), Reyna, Amato, Mols.

GROUP G

Sparta Prague 0
Bordeaux 0
Att: 14,928. **Ref:** Hauge (Nor)
Sparta: Postulka - Gabriel, Labant, Hasek, Svoboda (P Novotny 90), J Novotny, Lokvenc, Siegl (Sionko 58), Baranek, Rosicky (Prohaszka 84), Fukal.
Bordeaux: Rame - Saveljic, Rouviere, Micoud, Laslandes, Wiltord, Grenet, Martins (Batlles 90), Diabate, Afanou, Alicarte.

Willem II 1 (Arts 56)
Moscow Spartak 3 (Tikhonov pen 27, 37, pen 53)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 14,500. **Ref:** Fernandez Martin (Spa)
Willem II: Mampaey - Prommayon, Jaliens, Victoria, Hill, Valk (Sanou 62), Galasek, Arts, Ceesay, Bombarda, Shoukov (Schenning 90).
Spartak: Filimonov - Parfyonov, Khlestov, Bushmanov, Kovtun, Baranov, Titov (Evseev 71), Bezrodny, Tikhonov, Ketchinov (Tsymbalar 46), Luis Robson.

GROUP H

Chelsea 0
Milan 0
Att: 33,473. **Ref:** Frisk (Swe)
Chelsea: De Goey - Petrescu, Ferrer, Babayaro, Leboeuf (Hogh 81), Desailly, Deschamps, Poyet (Le Saux 80), Wise, Flo (Sutton 85), Zola.
Milan: Abbbiati - Costacurta, Maldini, Helveg, Ayala, Albertini, Gattuso, Guglielminpietro, Bierhoff, Shevchenko, Leonardo (Giunti 83).

Galatasaray 2 (Hakan Sukur 24, Hagi pen 86)
Hertha 2 (Preetz 12, Wosz 13)
HT: 1-2. **Att:** 30,000. **Ref:** Meier (Swi)
Galatasaray: Taffarel - Bruno (Tugay 46), Gh Popescu, Arif (Marcio 67), Okan (Fatih 46), Suat, Hakan Sukur, Hagi, Umit, Hakan Unsal, Carlos Oliviera.
Hertha: Kiraly - Herzog, Konstantinidis, Wosz (Thom 50), Daei, Preetz, Dardai, Schmidt, Hartmann, Deisler, Helmer (Veit 17; Neuendorf 46). *Sent off: Konstantinidis 82min.*

2nd matchday (Sep 21)

GROUP E

FC Porto 2 (Esquerdinha 6, Jardel 47)
Olympiakos 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 25,000. **Ref:** Elleray (Eng)
Porto: Vitor Baia - Secretario, Jorge Costa, Argel, Peixe, Drulovic, Jardel, Carlos Chainho (Rui Barros 76), Nuno Capucho (Alessandro 62), Deco (Aloisio 90), Esquerdinha.
Olympiakos: Eleftheropoulos - Karataidis, Amponsah (Gogic 59), Amanatidis, Poursanidis, Niniadis, Giovanni, Djordjevic (Alexandris 90), Ofori-Quaye, Zahovic (Luciano 75), Anatolakis.

Real Madrid 4 (Morientes 27, Savio 60, pen 70, Guti 81)
Molde 1 (Lindbaek 80)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Strampe (Ger)
Real Madrid: Casillas - Michel Salgado, Ivan Campo, Julio Cesar, Roberto Carlos, Helguera, Redondo, McManaman (Baljic 64), Anelka (Guti 56), Savio (Eto'o 74), Morientes.
Molde: Bakke - Strande, Tessem, Lyderson (Singaas 85), Fostervold, Olsen, Berg, Fjortoft, Hoseth (Mork 66), Lindbaek (Sundgot 89), Lund.

GROUP F

PSV Eindhoven 1 (Van Nistelrooy pen 72)
Valencia 1 (Lopez 4)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 30,000. **Ref:** Pedersen (Nor)
PSV: Waterreus - Faber (Wielaert 56), Nikiforov, Dirkx, Heintze, Rommedahl (Kolkka 74), Stinga (Bouma 73), Vogel, Khokhlov, Van Nistelrooy, Bruggink.
Valencia: Canizares (Palop 64) - Angloma, Pellegrino, Bjorklund, Carboni, Mendieta, Gerard Lopez, Albelda, Kily Gonzalez, Juan Sanchez (Angulo 74), Claudio Lopez (Oscar 90).

Rangers 1 (Albertz 22)
Bayern Munich 1 (Tarnat 90)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 49,960. **Ref:** Wojcik (Pol)
Rangers: Charbonnier - Porrini, Amoruso, Moore, Numan, Reyna, Ferguson, Van Bronckhorst, Albertz, Mols (Hendry 84), Johansson (McCann 90).
Bayern: Wessels - Linke, Matthaus (Zickler 81), Kuffour, Jeremies, Tarnat, Effenberg, Lizarazu (Jancker 46), Scholl, Elber (Santa Cruz 73), Salihamidzic.

GROUP G

Bordeaux 3 (Victoria og 17, Laslandes 22, Feindouno 82)
Willem II 2 (Abdellaoui 40, Sanou 70)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 14,000. **Ref:** Barber (Eng)
Bordeaux: Rame - Grenet, Afanou, Saveljic, Bonnissel, Martins (Batlles 63), Rouviere, Diabate, Micoud, Wiltord (Feindouno 73), Laslandes.
Willem II: Mampaey - Jaliens, Victoria, Hill, Valk, Shoukov, Galasek, Arts, Ceesay, Bombarda (Schenning 74), Abdellaoui (Sanou 58).

Moscow Spartak 1 (Bezrodny 73)
Sparta Prague 1 (Lokvenc 17)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 45,000. **Ref:** Nilsson (Swe)
Spartak: Filimonov - Kovtun, Khlestov, Tsymbalar (Shirko 56), Bushmanov, Baranov (Ketchinov 63), Bulatov (Bezrodny 70), Titov, Tikhonov, Parfyonov, Luis Robson. *Sent off: Kovtun 68min, Robson 82min.*
Sparta: Postulka - Gabriel, Labant, Hasek, Hornak, Novotny, Lokvenc, Sionko, Baranek (Prohaszka 86), Rosicky (Obadjin 76), Fukal.

GROUP H

Hertha 2 (Daei 3, 70)
Chelsea 1 (Leboeuf pen 86)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 57,000. **Ref:** Piraux (Blg)
Hertha: Kiraly - Herzog, Van Burik, Schmidt, Sanneh (Veit 66), Dardai (Helmer 80), Deisler, Tretschok (Michalke 12), Wosz, Daei, Preetz.
Chelsea: De Goey - Ferrer (Ambrosetti 64), Petrescu, Babayaro, Le Saux (Morris 71), Desailly, Deschamps, Leboeuf, Wise, Zola, Flo (Sutton 64).

Milan 2 (Leonardo 44, Shevchenko 45)
Galatasaray 1 (Umit Davala 50)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 45,000. **Ref:** Dallas (Sco)
Milan: Abbiati - Costacurta (N'Gotty 83), Ayala, Maldini, Helveg, Albertini, Gattuso, Serginho, Leonardo (Giunti 69), Bierhoff, Shevchenko (Ganz 88).
Galatasaray: Taffarel - Hakan Unsal, Oliveira, Popescu, Fatih Akyel (Ergun 49), Ahmet Yildirim, Suat Kaya, Bruno Everton (Arif 46), Umit Davala, Hagi (Okan Buruk 46), Hakan Sukur.

(Sep 22)

GROUP A

Lazio 2 (Negro 70, Salas 72)
Kyiv Dynamo 1 (Rebrov pen 68)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 45,000. **Ref:** Diaz Vega (Spa)
Lazio: Ballotta - Negro, Favalli, Nesta, Mihajlovic - Nedved, Almeyda, Stankovic (Salas 52), Veron (Lombardo 81) - Boksic, Mancini (Simeone 75).
Dynamo: Shovkovskyi - Guerasimenko (Konovalov 46), Holovko, Vaschuk, Dmytrulin - Kaladze, Kormiltsev (Kossovskyi 46), Husin, Fedorov - Shatskih (Venhlinsky 83), Rebrov.

Maribor Teatanic 0
Bayer Leverkusen 2 (Zivkovic 82, Kirsten 90)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 10,000. **Ref:** Wegereef (Hol)
Maribor: Simeunovic - Vugdalic, Seslar, Zidan, Cipi, Djuranovic, Balajic (Dragusha 85), Galic, Filekovic (Pregelj 52), Bozgo, Simundza.
Leverkusen: Matysek - R Kovac, Nowotny (Robson 70), Zivkovic, Gresko, Ramelow, Schneider, Emerson, Beinlich, Neuville (Brdaric 82), Kirsten.

GROUP E

Arsenal 3 (Ljungberg 28, Henry 90, Suker 90)
AIK 1 (Nordin 53)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 71,227. **Ref:** Melo Pereira (Por)
Arsenal: Manninger - Dixon, Keown, Adams, Winterburn - Ljungberg (Henry 69), Vieira, Grimandi (Silvinho 56), Overmars (Kanu 69) - Bergkamp, Suker.
AIK: Asper - Kamark (Kjolo 46), Ljung, Brundin, Gustafsson, Andersson (Corneliusson 88), Nordin, Tjernstrom, Lagerlof - Novakovic (Aslund 82), Andersson.

Barcelona 4 (Figo 7, Luis Enrique 10, Rivaldo pen 68, 70)
Fiorentina 2 (Batistuta 50, Chiesa 79)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 75,000. **Ref:** Milton Nielsen (Den)
Barcelona: Hesp - Reiziger, Bogarde, Sergi - R De Boer, Guardiola (Xavi 79), Luis Enrique, Cocu (Zenden 76) - Figo, Kluivert (Dani 60), Rivaldo.
Fiorentina: Toldo - Repka, Padalino, Adani, Di Livio, Heinrich, Rui Costa, Cois, Amoroso (Chiesa 56), Mijatovic (Balbo 86), Batistuta (Amor 77).

GROUP C

Borussia Dortmund 3 (Moller 40, Bobic 53, 65)
Boavista 1 (Rui Bento 44)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 44,000. **Ref:** Usunov (Bul)
Dortmund: Lehmann - Reuter, Kohler, Evanilson, Ricken, Addo (Stevic 79), Nerlinger, Dede, Reina (Nijhuis 88), Bobic (Herrlich 73), Moller.
Boavista: Bassey - Paulo Sousa, Pedro Emanuel, Litos Magalhaes, Mario Silva, Rogerio (Martelinho 64), Rui Bento, Cesar Atienza, Luis Manuel (Formoso 46), Augustine (Gilmar 71), Jorge Silva.

Rosenborg 2 (Carew 21, 24)
Feyenoord 2 (Tomasson 12, Kalou 22)
HT: 2-2. **Att:** 20,000. **Ref:** Radoman (Yug)
Rosenborg: Jamtfall - Bergdolmo, Hoftun, Bragstad, Johnsen (Wisnes 65), Strand, Skammelsrud, Berg, Sorensen, Carew, Jakobsen (Dahlum 59).
Feyenoord: Dudek - Bosvelt, Van Wonderen, Konterman, Van Gastel, Tomasson, Pauwe, De Visser, Kalou, Cruz, Van Gobbel.

GROUP D

Croatia Zagreb 1 (Sokota 64)
Marseille 2 (Bakayoko 5, Perez 77)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 25,000. **Ref:** Braschi (Ita)
Croatia: Ladic - Tokic (Sokota 46), Juric, Tomas, Saric, Jurcic, Mujcin, Biscan, Cvitanovic (Sokota 46), Rukavina (Jelicic 76), Simic.
Marseille: Porato - Perez, Issa, Berizzo, Blondeau (Brando 53) - Luccin, Dalmat, Pires, Keita (Ravanelli 67), Gallas - Bakayoko (Diawara 86).

Sturm Graz 0
Manchester United 3 (Keane 16, Yorke 31, Cole 33)
HT: 0-3. **Att:** 17,000. **Ref:** Trentalange (Ita)
Sturm Graz: Sidorczuk - Neukirchner, Foda, Mahlich (Reinmayr 75), Strafner, Schupp, Vastic, Prilasnig (Kutsupias 71), Martens, Feldhofer (Korsos 72), Kocijan.
Man Utd: Van der Gouw - P Neville, Berg, Stam, Irwin, Beckham, Cruyff (Sheringham 68), Keane (Wilson 62), Scholes, Cole (Solskjaer 76), Yorke.

3rd matchday (Sep 28)

GROUP E

Olympiakos 3 (Giovanni 16, 70, Luciano 77)
Molde 1 (Lund 58)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 50,000. **Ref:** Lubos (Slk)
Olympiakos: Eleftheropoulos - Karataidis, Amanatidis, Poursanidis, Giovanni, Djordjevic, Passalis, Karapialis (Gogic 62), Ofori-Quaye (Luciano 67; Antzas 79), Zahovic, Anatolakis.
Molde: Bakke - Lydersen, Fostervold, Hestad, Tessem, Fjortoft, Lund, Olsen, Mork (Lindbaek 54), Strande (Dos Santos 72), Sundgot (Hoseth 74).

Real Madrid 3 (Morientes 23, Helguera 37, Hierro pen 68)
FC Porto 1 (Jardel 24)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 27,000. **Ref:** Collina (Ita)
Madrid: Bizarri - Michel Salgado, Hierro, Julio Cesar, Roberto Carlos, Helguera (Sanchis 84), Redondo, McManaman (Seedorf 58), Raul, Savio (Eto'o 90), Morientes.
Porto: Vitor Baia - Secretario, Jorge Costa, Argel, Esquerdinha, Peixe, Deco, Chainho (Rubens Junior 58), Nuno Capucho (Alessandro 51), Drulovic (Miki 88), Jardel.

GROUP F

Bayern Munich 1 (Elber 6)
Valencia 1 (Gerard Lopez 80)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 30,000. **Ref:** Cesari (Ita)
Bayern: Kahn - Linke, Matthaus, Kuffour, Jeremies, Tarnat, Effenberg, Salihamidzic, Scholl, Elber (Jancker 62), Zickler (Santa Cruz 46).
Valencia: Palop - Angloma, Pellegrino, Bjorklund, Carboni, Mendieta (Angulo 87), Kily Gonzalez (Farinos 84), Gerard Lopez, Albelda, Claudio Lopez, Juan Sanchez (A Ilie 62).

PSV Eindhoven 0
Rangers 1 (Albertz 85)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 27,000. **Ref:** Frisk (Swe)
PSV: Waterreus - Dirkx, Heintze, Khokhlov, Van Nistelrooy, Nilis, Van der Doelen (Bruggink 80), Rommedahl (Kolkka 63), Nikiforov, Stinga (Bouma 68), Wielaert.
Rangers: Charbonnier - Porrini, Moore, Amoruso, Numan, Ferguson, Van Bronckhorst, Mols, Wallace, Reyna (Albertz 24), McCann.

GROUP G

Bordeaux 2 (Wiltord 9, Micoud 56)
Moscow Spartak 1 (Bezrodny 64)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 17,550. **Ref:** Meier (Swi)
Bordeaux: Rame - Grenet, Afanou, Saveljic, Bonnissel, Martins (Batlles 72), Pavon, Diabate, Micoud, Wiltord (Feindouno 87), Laslandes.
Spartak: Filimonov - Parfyonov, Bushmanov, Khlestov, Yevseyev, Baranov (Kechnikov 55), Bulatov (Tsymbalar 46), Titov, Tikhonov, Shirko, Bezrodny.

Sparta Prague 4 (Novotny 26, Prohaszka pen 29, Rosicky 40, Jarosik 58)
Willem II 0
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 10,581. **Ref:** Heynemann (Ger)
Sparta: Postulka - Gabriel, Labant, Hasek, Hornak, Novotny, Sionko (Siegl 84), Prohaszka (Jarosik 36), Baranek (Obajdin 82), Rosicky, Fukal.
Willem II: Mampaey - Prommayon, Hill, Gentile (Bombarda 46), Victoria, Ceesay, Arts, Galasek, Abdellaoui (Sanou 81), Shoukov, Jaliens.

GROUP H

Chelsea 1 (Petrescu 55)
Galatasaray 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 33,426. **Ref:** Jol (Hol)
Chelsea: De Goey - Petrescu, Ferrer, Babayaro, Leboeuf, Desailly (Hogh 63), Morris, Wise, Zola, Ambrosetti (Poyet 53), Sutton (Flo 85).
Galatasaray: Taffarel - Popescu, Hakan Unsal, Fatih Akyel, Okan (Emre 72), Hagi (Hasan Sas 73), Umit Davala, Capone, Ergun, Arif (Mehmet 34), Hakan Sukur. *Sent off: Taffarel 33min.*

Milan 1 (Bierhoff 74)
Hertha Berlin 1 (Daei 69)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 40,941. **Ref:** Veissiere (Fra)
Milan: Abbiati - Costacurta, Ayala, Maldini, Helveg (Guglielminpietro 57), Gattuso, Albertini (Giunti 75), Serginho, Shevchenko, Bierhoff, Leonardo.
Hertha: Kiraly - Herzog, Van Burik, Schmidt, Helmer, Dardai, Deisler, Michalke, Wosz (Neuendorf 82), Daei, Preetz.

(Sep 29)

GROUP A

Bayer Leverkusen 1 (Kirsten 52)
Kyiv Dynamo 1 (Husin 71)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 22,500. **Ref:** Colombo (Fra)
Leverkusen: Matysek, R Kovac, Reeb, Nowotny, Ponte, Kirsten, Emerson, Beinlich, Schneider, Neuville (Hejduk 46), Ramelow.
Dynamo: Shovkovskyi, Holovko, Vaschuk, Dmytrulin (Kormiltsev 74), Kaladze, Kossovskyi, Rebrov, Husin, Shatskih, Konovalov (Guerassimenko 59), Mamedov (Fedorov 81).

Lazio 4 (Inzaghi 60, Sergio Conceicao 62, Salas 71, 76)
Maribor 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 33,000. **Ref:** Cortez Baptista (Por)
Lazio: Marchegiani, Negro, Sensini, Sergio Conceicao, Mancini, Mihajlovic (Almeyda 72), Nesta, Pancaro, Lombardo (Veron 23), Stankovic (Salas 46), Inzaghi.
Maribor: Simeunovic, Vugdalic, Seslar, Zidan (Pregelj 81), Karic, Simundza (Sarkezi 46), Cipi, Balajic, Djuranovic, Galic, Bozgo (Filipovic 68). *Sent off: Cipi 20min.*

GROUP B

Barcelona 1 (Luis Enrique 16)
Arsenal 1 (Kanu 81)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 80,000. **Ref:** Merk (Ger)
Barcelona: Hesp, Reiziger (R De Boer 70), Guardiola, Figo, Cocu, Rivaldo, Sergi, Bogarde, Dani, Luis Enrique (Litmanen 77), F De Boer.
Arsenal: Manninger, Dixon, Winterburn, Vieira, Keown, Adams, Bergkamp (Suker 73), Overmars (Ljungberg 80), Parlour (Henry 73), Grimandi, Kanu. *Sent off: Grimandi 80min.*

AIK 0
Fiorentina 0
Att: 15,000. **Ref:** Benko (Aut)
AIK: Asper, Nordin, O Andersson (Corneliusson 55), Brundin, Gustafsson, Novakovic, Tjernstrom, A Andersson, Laderlof, Kjolo.
Fiorentina: Toldo, Repka, Padalino, Mijatovic (Balbo 72), Batistuta, Rui Costa, Cois (Rossitto 90), Di Livio (Bressan 61), Heinrich, Chiesa, Pierini.

GROUP C

Boavista 1 (Mario Silva 87)
Feyenoord 1 (Bosvelt 62)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 10,000. **Ref:** Poll (Eng)
Boavista: William Andem, Paulo Sousa, Rui Bento, Pedro Emanuel (Formoso 79), Cesar (Gilmar 46), Emanuel, Litos, Jorge Couto, Jorge Silva, Ahinful Augustine (Doula 68), Mario Silva. *Sent off: William Andem 90min.*
Feyenoord: Dudek, Van Gastel, Bosvelt, Kalou, Van Wonderen, Ricardo Cruz (Van Vossen 58), Tomasson, Konterman, Paauwe, De Visser, Van Gobbel.

Rosenborg 2 (Sorensen 35, Carew 68)
Borussia Dortmund 2 (Barbarez 11, Kohler 22)
HT: 1-2. **Att:** 14,068. **Ref:** Durkin (Eng)
Rosenborg: Jamtfall, Bergdolmo, Bragstad, Basma (Winsnes 25), Strand, Berg, Sorensen, Carew, Skammelsrud, Jakobsen.
Dortmund: Lehmann, Stevic (Nijhuis 74), Kohler, Reuter, Nerlinger, Herrlich (Addo 70), Reina, Barbarez, Dede, Ricken, Evanilson (Baumann 46).

GROUP D

Croatia Zagreb 3 (Rukavina 28, Sokota 34, pen 58)
Sturm Graz 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 21,000. **Ref:** Lopez Nieto (Spa)
Croatia: Ladic, Juric, Mujcin (Prosinecki 66), Rukavina (Tokic 74), Saric, Simic, Cvitanovic, Tomas, Biscan, Jurcic, Sokota (Mikic 79).
Sturm Graz: Schicklgruber, Neukirchner, Milanic (Feldhofer 66), Foda, Mahlich (Pantelic 73), Strafner, Vastic, Prilasnig, Martens, Schopp (Korsos 50), Kocijan.

Manchester United 2 (Cole 79, Scholes 83)
Marseille 1 (Bakayoko 41)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 45,000. **Ref:** Garcia Aranda (Spa)
Man Utd: Van der Gouw, Irwin, Stam, Beckham, Butt, Cole (Clegg 86), P Neville, Scholes, Yorke, Solskjaer (Fortune 72), Berg (Sheringham 77).
Marseille: Porato, Blondeau, Perez, Issa (Belmadi 82), Brando, Ravanelli (Pires 62), Dalmat, Bakayoko, Gallas, Fischer, Luccin (De La Pena 77).

GROUP A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lazio	3	2	1	0	7	2	7
Leverkusen	3	1	2	0	4	2	5
Maribor	3	1	0	2	1	6	3
Kyiv Dynamo	3	0	1	2	2	4	1

GROUP B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Barcelona	3	2	1	0	7	4	7
Arsenal	3	1	2	0	4	2	5
Fiorentina	3	0	2	1	2	4	2
AIK	3	0	1	2	2	5	1

GROUP C

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rosenborg	3	1	2	0	7	4	5
Dortmund	3	1	2	0	6	4	5
Feyenoord	3	0	3	0	3	3	3
Boavista	3	0	1	2	1	6	1

GROUP D

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Manchester Utd	3	2	1	0	5	1	7
Marseille	3	2	0	1	5	3	6
Croatia Zagreb	3	1	1	1	4	2	4
Sturm Graz	3	0	0	3	0	8	0

GROUP E

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Real Madrid	3	2	1	0	10	5	7
FC Porto	3	2	0	1	4	3	6
Olympiakos	3	1	1	1	6	6	4
Molde	3	0	0	3	2	8	0

GROUP F

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Valencia	3	1	2	0	4	2	5
Bayern Munich	3	1	2	0	4	3	5
Rangers	3	1	1	1	2	3	4
PSV Eindhoven	3	0	1	2	2	4	1

GROUP G

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bordeaux	3	2	1	0	5	3	7
Sparta Prague	3	1	2	0	5	1	5
Moscow Spartak	3	1	1	1	5	4	4
Willem II	3	0	0	3	3	10	0

GROUP H

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hertha Berlin	3	1	2	0	5	4	5
Milan	3	1	2	0	3	2	5
Chelsea	3	1	1	1	2	2	4
Galatasaray	3	0	1	2	3	5	1

UEFA CUP

1st rnd, 1st legs (Sep 16 unless stated)

AB Copenhagen 0
Grasshopper 2 (Hakan Yakin 50, Ekoku 81)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 2,000. **Ref:** Duhamel (Fra)

Ajax 6 (Verlaat pen 25, Reuser 26, Knopper 48, Machlas 50, 64, Wamberto 72)
Dukla Banska Bystrica 1 (Verlaat og 14)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 26,000

Amica Wronki 2 (Dawidowski 23, Bosacki 60)
Brondby 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 4,000. **Ref:** Richards (Wal)

Anderlecht 3 (Bajrektarevic og 20, Radzinski 35, 67)
Olimpija Ljubljana 1 (Ekmecic 53)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 17,500

Anorthosis Famagusta 1 (Engomitis 84)
Legia Warsaw 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 4,000. **Ref:** Sammut (Mlt)

Aris 1 (Mantzios pen 11)
Servette 1 (Martin Petrov 88)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 20,000

Atletico Madrid 3 (Gamarra 41, Hasselbaink 45, Paunovic 57)
Ankaragucu 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 19,000. **Ref:** Dardenne (Ger)

Beira Mar 1 (Faye Fary 41)
Vitesse 2 (Van Hooijdonk 53, Grozdic 83)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 10,000

Benfica 0
Dinamo Bucharest 1 (Nastase 33)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 31,000. **Ref:** Puhl (Hun)

Bodo/Glimt 0
Werden Bremen 5 (Pizarro 12, 76, Bogdanovic 44, 55, Maximov 60)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 1,425. **Ref:** Jarmentsjuk (Ukr)

Celtic 2 (Larsson 24, pen 50)
Hapoel Tel Aviv 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 40,000

CSKA Sofia 0
Newcastle United 2 (Solano 52, Ketsbaia 77)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 20,260. **Ref:** Roca (Spa)

Grazer AK 3 (Akwuegbu 12, 57, Skelley Adu Tutu 34)
Spartak Trnava 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 5,000. **Ref:** Ovrebo (Nor)

Hajduk Split 0
Levski Sofia 0
Att: 20,000

Hapoel Haifa 3 (Turjeman 18, 32, Sevilia 44)
Club Brugge 1 (Jankauskas 65)
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 7,000

Helsingborgs 1 (Jonsson 85)
Karpaty Lviv 1 (Getsko 17)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 3,642

HJK Helsinki 0
Lyon 1 (Vairelles 16)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 8,103 (Sep 15)

Inter Bratislava 1 (Lalik 45)
Rapid Wien 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 6,596

Ionikos 1 (Dimitriadis 90)
Nantes 3 (Lievre 55, Monterrubio 66, 83)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 4,000

Kaiserslautern 3 (Koch 29, Djorkaeff 37, Marschall 39)
Kilmarnock 0
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 21,000. **Ref:** Monteiro Coroado (Por)

Lausanne 3 (Kuzba 20, Mazzoni 21, 58)
Celta Vigo 2 (Revivo 63, Karpin pen 67)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 7,700

Lech Poznan 1 (Zurawski pen 45)
IFK Gothenburg 2 (P Andersson, 34, Mild 83)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 8,000

Lokomotiv Tbilisi 0
PAOK Salonika 7 (Georgiadis 17, 26, Sabry 42, Froussos 56, 63, Marangos 67, Vryzas 69)
HT: 0-3. **Att:** 6,000

Lyngby 1 (Bidstrup 69)
Lokomotiv Moscow 2 (Chugainov 13, Boulikin 38)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 1,474. **Ref:** Egmond (Hol)

Maccabi Tel Aviv 2 (Koubika 44, Ben-Dayan 84)
Lens 2 (Sacour 39, Job 55)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 4,000

Monaco 3 (Simone 69, 90, Trezeguet 72)
St Johnstone 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 7,000

MTK 0
Fenerbahce 0
Att: 5,000. **Ref:** Ingvarsson (Swe)

Nova Gorica 0
Panathinaikos 1 (Limberopoulos 14)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 1,700. **Ref:** Zur (Isr)

Omonia Nicosia 2 (Kondolefteros 75, 86)
Juventus 5 (Inzaghi 2, 17, Kovacevic 22, Esnaider 24, Del Piero 82)
HT: 0-4. **Att:** 16,000. **Ref:** Smodek (Bls)

Parma 3 (Di Vaio 11, 20, D Baggio 67)
Kryvbas Kryviy Rih 2 (Palyantsya 5, Monaryov 74)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 15,000

Partizan Belgrade 1 (Tomic 20)
Leeds United 3 (Bowyer 26, 82, Radebe 39)
HT: 1-2. **Att:** 4,950 (Sep 14, in Heerenveen, Holland)

Red Star Belgrade 0
Montpellier 1 (Loko 6)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 8,500 (Sep 14)
Sent off: Ilic 57min (Red Star)

Roda JC 2 (Doomerink 20, Zafarin 26)
Shakhtar Donetsk 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 6,000

Roma 7 (Aldair 12, Montella 13, Alenichev 15, 54, 75, Assuncao 39, Delvecchio 73)
Vitoria Setubal 0
HT: 4-0. **Att:** 22,000

Sigma Olomouc 1 (Kobylik 63)
Mallorca 3 (Engonga 12, Tristan 53, J Stankovic 74)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 7,000. **Ref:** Sundell (Swe)

Skonto Riga 1 (Astafjevs 32)
Widzew Lodz 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 650. **Ref:** Kjellvald (Nor)

Stabaek 1 (Finstad 57)
La Coruna 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 3,807 (Sep 14)

Steaua Bucharest 2 (Ciocoiu 64, Danciulescu 82)
Linz ASK 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 3,600 (Sep 14)
Sent off: Muhr 58min (Linz)

Teplice 3 (Frydek 31, Kolomaznik 53, 71)
Ferencvaros 1 (M Toth 15)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 10,000

Torpedo Kutaisi 0
AEK Athens 1 (Zikos 90)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 7,147

Tottenham 3 (Leonhardsen 3, Perry 32, Sherwood 56)
Zimbru Chisinau 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 32,660. **Ref:** Zammit (Mlt)

Udinese 1 (Sottil 9)
AaB Aalborg 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 17,661 (Sep 14)

Viking 3 (Magnus Svensson 57, Berre 70, Espevoll 78)
Sporting Lisbon 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 4,080

Vojvodina 0
Slavia Prague 0
Att: 2,000

West Ham 3 (Wanchope 41, Di Canio 48, Lampard 58)
Osijek 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 25,331

Wolfsburg 2 (Akonnor 61, Juskowiak 87)
Debrecen 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 10,000 (Sep 14)
Sent off: Boor 88min (Debrecen)

Zenit St Petersburg 0
Bologna 3 (Ventola 39, Signori 64, pen 90)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 22,000

Zurich 1 (Jamarauli 29)
Lierse 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 4,200

1st rnd, 2nd legs (Sep 30 unless stated)

AaB Aalborg 1 (Matovac 71)
Udinese 2 (Muzzi 63, Locatelli 90)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 8,473
Udinese 3-1 on agg

AEK Athens 6 (Ciric pen 8, Biekovic 22, Maladenis 25, Kopitsis 43, 88, Nikolaidis 74)
Torpedo Kutaisi 1 (Megreladze 73)
HT: 4-0. **Att:** 5,000
AEK 7-1 on agg

Ankaragucu 1 (Birol 84)
Atletico Madrid 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 5,000
Atletico Madrid 3-1 on agg

Bologna 2 (Fontolan 39, Cipriani 74)
Zenit St Petersburg 2 (Panov 35, Kondrashov 89)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 9,000
Bologna 5-2 on agg
Sent off: Ugarov 8min (Zenit); Ingesson 86min (Bologna)

Brondby 4 (Madsen 37, 76, Vragel da Silva 54, Christensen 78)
Amica Wronki 3 (Kryszalowicz 52, 68, Kukiela pen 63)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 5,907
Amica 5-4 on agg

Celta Vigo 4 (McCarthy 10, 85, 90, Mostovoi 76)
Lausanne 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 16,000
Celta 6-3 on agg

Club Brugge 4 (Verheyen 20, Borkelmans 26, Janssen 52, 90)
Hapoel Haifa 2 (Rosso 18, 79)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 9,000
Agg 5-5. Hapoel Haifa on away goals

Debrecen 2 (Sabo 54, 89)
Wolfsburg 1 (Akpoborie 25)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 4,500. **Ref:** Rowbotham (Sco)
Wolfsburg 3-2 on agg

Dinamo Bucharest 0
Benfica 2 (Maniche 26, Fernandez 72)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 13,000
Benfica 2-1 on agg
Sent off: Nastase 60min (Dinamo); Ricardo Rojas 60min (Benfica)

Dukla Banska Bystrica 1 (Malatinsky 45)
Ajax 3 (Arveladze 47, Bobson 64, Laudrup 90)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 5,000
Ajax 9-2 on agg

Fenerbahce 0
MTK 2 (Kenesei 56, 63)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 20,000
MTK 2-0 on agg

Ferencvaros 1 (Matyus 57)
Teplice 1 (Rada 53)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 7,000
Teplice 4-2 on agg

Grasshopper 1 (Magro 79)
AB Copenhagen 1 (R D Hansen 30)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 3,800
Grasshopper 3-1 on agg

Hapoel Tel Aviv 0
Celtic 1 (Larsson 63)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 10,000
Celtic 3-0 on agg

IFK Gothenburg 0
Lech Poznan 0
Att: 4,910
IFK 2-1 on agg

Juventus 5 (Kovacevic 21, 47, 88, Tacchinardi 55, Conte 90)
Omonia Nicosia 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 25,000 (in Palermo)
Juventus 10-2 on agg

Karpaty Lviv 1 (Getsko 90)
Helsingborgs 1 (Mattias Jonsson 89)
HT: 0-0. **90min:** 1-1. **Att:** 27,000
Aet. Agg 2-2. Helsingborgs 4-2 on pens

Kilmarnock 0
Kaiserslautern 2 (Djorkaeff 22, Ramzy 29)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 25,000
Kaiserslautern 5-0 on agg

Kryvbas Kryviy Rih 0
Parma 3 (Boghossian 36, Crespo 40, Di Vaio 67)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 30,000
Parma 6-2 on agg
Sent off: Doroshenko 21min (Kryvbas)

La Coruna 2 (Jokanovic 37, Conceicao 63)
Stabaek 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 23,000
La Coruna 2-1 on agg
Sent off: Flem 76min (Stabaek)

Leeds United 1 (Huckerby 55)
Partizan Belgrade 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 25,000
Leeds 4-1 on agg

Legia Warsaw 2 (Mieciel 48, S Czereszewski 68)
Anorthosis Farmagusta 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 6,500
Legia 2-1 on agg

Lens 2 (Nouma 78, Delporte 80)
Maccabi Tel Aviv 1 (Basis 23)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 37,000
Lens 4-3 on agg
Sent off: Ederi (Maccabi)

Levski Sofia 3 (Ivankov pen 16, Bachev 32, Dimitrov 84)
Hajduk Split 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 29,000
Levski 3-0 on agg
Sent off: Baturina 39min (Hajduk)

Lierse 3 (Van Meir 15, Huysegem 70, Zdebel 82)
Zurich 4 (Jamarauli 2, M Frick 57, Eydelie 87, Daems og 89)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 12,500
Zurich 5-3 on agg

Linz ASK 2 (Stumpf 5, Sane 90)
Steaua Bucharest 3 (Bordeanu 8, Sabin Ilie 32, Duro 59)
HT: 1-2. **Att:** 6,000. **Ref:** Dauden Ibanez (Spa)
Steaua 5-2 on agg (Sep 29)

Lokomotiv Moscow 3 (Kharlachyov 20, Drozdov 43, Dzhanashia 44)
Lyngby 0
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 13,000
Lokomotiv 5-1 on agg
Sent off: Bosun Ayeni 59min (Lyngby)

Lyon 5 (Anderson 11, Blanc 15, Linares 18, Vairelles 71, 85)
HJK Helsinki 1 (Lehkosuo 40)
HT: 3-1. **Att:** 19,000
Lyon 6-1 on agg

Mallorca 0
Sigma Olomouc 0
Att: 10,000
Mallorca 3-1 on agg

Montpellier 2 (Ouedec 36, Loko 52)
Red Star Belgrade 2 (Jelic 48, Boskovic pen 55)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 9,246 (Sep 29)
Montpellier 3-2 on agg

Nantes 1 (Da Rocha 48)
Ionikos 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 28,000
Nantes 4-1 on agg

Newcastle United 2 (Shearer 32, Robinson 88)
CSKA Sofia 2 (Litera 29, Simeonov 90)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 39,000
Newcastle 4-2 on agg

Olimpija Ljubljana 0
Anderlecht 3 (Koller 63, Radzinski 69, 72)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 1,500
Anderlecht 6-1 on agg

Osijek 1 (Bubalo 70)
West Ham 3 (Kitson 27, Ruddock 83, Foe 90)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 15,000
West Ham 6-1 on agg

Panathinaikos 2 (Sigurdsson 38, Nassiopoulos 69)
Nova Gorica 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 8,000
Panathinaikos 3-0 on agg

PAOK Salonika 2 (Valencia pen 52, Salpigidis 88)
Lokomotiv Tbilisi 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 6,000
PAOK 9-0 on agg

Rapid Wien 1 (Zingler 65)
Inter Bratislava 2 (Suchanok 45, Babnic 64)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 7,000
Inter Bratislava 3-1 on agg

Servette 1 (Lonfat 35)
Aris 2 (Andriolo 37, Kyzeridis 95)
HT: 1-1. **90min:** 1-1. **Att:** 6,200
Aet. Aris 3-2 on agg

Shakhtar Donetsk 1 (Benyo 32)
Roda JC 3 (Tchoutang 27, Van der Luer 82, Van Dessel 89)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 20,000
Roda 5-1 on agg
Sent off: Seleznyov 50min (Shakhtar); Doomernik 90min (Roda)

Slavia Prague 3 (Petrous 39, Dosek 73, Zelenka 82)
Vojvodina 2 (Belic 18, Bogdanovic 47)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 4,000
Slavia 3-2 on agg

Spartak Trnava 2 (Muzlay 45, 70)
Grazer AK 1 (Standfest 14)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 2,097
Grazer 4-2 on agg

Sporting Lisbon 1 (Ayew pen 76)
Viking Stavanger 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 32,000
Viking 3-1 on agg

St Johnstone 3 (Leonard og 5, Dasovic 33, O'Neil 76)
Monaco 3 (Dado Prso 9, Riise 24, Legwinski 69)
HT: 2-2. **Att:** 8,000
Monaco 6-3 on agg

Vitesse Arnhem 0
Beira Mar 0
Att: 18,000
Vitesse 2-1 on agg

Vitoria Setubal 1 (Maki 79)
Roma 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 5,000
Roma 7-1 on agg

Werder Bremen 1 (Ailton 76)
Bodo/Glimt 1 (Staurvik 36)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 15,291
Werder 6-1 on agg

Widzew Lodz 2 (Wichniarek 1, Gesior 43)
Skonto Riga 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 4,000
Widzew 2-1 on agg

Zimbru Chisinau 0
Tottenham 0
Att: 8,000
Tottenham 3-0 on agg

AUSTRIA

Sep 10: Sturm Graz 0 Linz ASK 0.
Sep 11: Austria Wien 5 Grazer AK 2; Lustenau 1 Salzburg 0; SV Ried 5 Bregenz 1; Rapid Wien 2 FC Tirol 4.
Sep 17: Salzburg 0 Austria Wien 1.
Sep 18: Linz ASK 3 Lustenau 0; FC Tirol 1 Sturm Graz 0.
Sep 19: Bregenz 1 Rapid Wien 1; Grazer AK 0 SV Ried 0.
Sep 24: SV Ried 5 FC Tirol 0.
Sep 25: Austria Wien 2 Linz ASK 1; Lustenau 1 Grazer AK 4; Sturm Graz 4 Bregenz 0; Salzburg 1 Rapid Wien 1.
Oct 1: FC Tirol 0 Austria Wien 2.
Oct 2: Bregenz 2 Lustenau 0; Linz ASK 2 Salzburg 4.
Oct 3: Rapid Wien 5 SV Ried 1; Grazer AK 1 Sturm Graz 0.
Oct 6: Lustenau 0 SV Ried 1; Salzburg 1 Grazer AK 0; Austria Wien 3 Bregenz 1; Linz ASK 3 FC Tirol 0; Sturm Graz 1 Rapid Wien 0.

AUSTRIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
FC Tirol	15	11	0	4	27	15	33
Rapid Wien	15	8	3	4	24	15	27
Austria Wien	15	8	3	4	23	16	27
Sturm Graz	15	7	4	4	23	11	25
SV Ried	15	7	2	6	24	16	23
Salzburg	15	6	3	6	13	14	21
Grazer AK	15	6	2	7	20	22	20
Lustenau	15	4	2	9	13	24	14
Linz ASK	15	3	3	9	16	25	12
Bregenz	15	3	2	10	11	36	11

BELGIUM

Saturday, September 11

Charleroi 2 (De Conde 35, D Brogno 87)
Genk 1 (Strupar pen 31) Att: 8,000

Geel 0
Standard 0 Att: 5,000

Lierse 5 (Van Meir pen 33, Peytier og 38, Van De Weyer 62, 65, Huysegems 70)
Mechelen 1 (Ribus 82) Att: 12,000

Lokeren 1 (Nikcevic 55)
Germinal BA 1 (Degryse 35) Att: 5,500

Lommel 0
Harelbeke 2 (Paas 23, Mitsjkov 50) Att: 5,000

Mouscron 5 (Ma. Zewlakow 39, 41, Tanghe 47, 73, 86)
Gent 3 (Nielsen 21, 89, Roussel pen 64) Att: 8,500

St Truiden 1 (Isaias 8)
Eendracht Aalst 5 (Grommen 50, . Cooreman 56, Thiebaut 81, Van den Boscche 89, Vergeylen 90) Att: 7,000

Friday, September 17

Standard 1 (M Mpenza 21)
Charleroi 3 (D Brogno 1, Albert 17, Sousa 66) Att: 9,000

Saturday, September 18

Genk 2 (Horvath 36, Strupar 65)
Mouscron 2 (Vidovic 5, Vanderhaeghe 22) Att: 19,500

Gent 4 (Arst 7, 24, 66, Joly 61)
Beveren 1 (Nuhiji 50) Att: 6,000

Germinal BA 4 (Hofmans 18, Degryse 37, Demkine 60, Marinovic 62)
Geel 1 (Curto 35) Att: 7,000

Mechelen 1 (Van Hout 48)
Lommel 0 Att: 6,500

Sunday, September 19

Anderlecht 2 (Radzinski 30, Zetterberg 59)
St Truiden 1 (Mertens 55) Att: 23,318

Eendracht Aalst 1 (D Cooreman 6)
Lokeren 0 Att: 6,000

Harelbeke 1 (Janssen 24)
Club Brugge 1 (Paas pen 30) Att: 8,000

Westerlo 0
Lierse 2 (Daems 52, Cavens 65) Att: 10,000

Friday, September 24

Mouscron 1 (Tanghe 15)
Standard 3 (Pierre 25, E Mpenza 56, M Mpenza 66) Att: 10,000

Saturday, September 25

Beveren 1 (Imagbudu 46)
Genk 4 (Horvath 13, De Vuyst og 53, Strupar 59, T Gudjonsson 72) Att: 6,000

Germinal BA 3 (Degryse 28, 62, P Van der Heyden 61)
Eendracht Aalst 2 (Hofmans 34, Meyssen 70) Att: 8,000

Lierse 2 (Van Meir 40, Van de Weyer 45)
Gent 1 (Schepens 32) Att: 10,000

Lokeren 2 (Van Geneugden pen 37, Penicka 83)
Anderlecht 3 (Staelens 17, Radzinski 32, Ekakia 81) Att: 12,000

Lommel 2 (Grant 64, Waligora 68)
Westerlo 2 (Milosevic 5, T Brogno 81) Att: 6,500

St Truiden 2 (Teppers 17, Fiers 42)
Harelbeke 0 Att: 6,000

Sunday, September 26

Club Brugge 6 (Janssen 9, 17, 25, Verheyen 22, Jankauskas 57, Vermant pen 87)
Mechelen 0 Att: 12,000

Geel 0
Charleroi 0 Att: 4,500

Friday, October 1

Charleroi 2 (Brogno pen 15, Kaklamanos 90)
Mouscron 1 (Dugardein 45)

Saturday, October 2

Gent 6 (Arst 5, 50, Schepens 12, 40, 60, Joly 90)
Lommel 2 (Dekelver 45, Grant 90)

Mechelen 3 (Van Hout 25, Ribus 45, Elias 78)
St Truiden 2 (Fiers 8, Mertens 65)

Standard 3 (Thijs 15, 18, M Mpenza 78)
Beveren 1 (De Meyer 48)

Sunday, October 3

Anderlecht 2 (Koller 30, Radzinski 51)
Germinal BA 2 (Hofmans 52, Degryse 60)

Eendracht Aalst 1 (Daelmans 17)
Geel 0

Genk 2 (N'Sumbu 80, Strupar 90)
Lierse 2 (Van de Weyer 60, Huysmans 83)

Harelbeke 2 (Paas 20, Verhoene 80)
Lokeren 3 (Van Geneugden 25, Penicka 48, Janssens 55)

Westerlo 1 (Pelic 60)
Club Brugge 0

BELGIUM

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lierse	8	6	1	1	20	10	19
Anderlecht	7	5	2	0	21	12	17
Club Brugge	7	5	1	1	20	4	16
Gent	8	5	0	3	24	15	15
Germinal BA	8	4	2	2	17	13	14
Westerlo	7	4	2	1	16	12	14
Eendracht Aalst	8	4	1	3	16	12	13
Charleroi	8	4	1	3	13	11	13
Genk	8	3	4	1	22	14	13
Mechelen	8	4	0	4	11	19	12
Standard	8	3	1	4	10	14	10
Mouscron	8	2	2	4	14	17	8
Harelbeke	8	1	3	4	9	14	6
Lokeren	8	1	3	4	9	14	6
Lommel	8	1	3	4	12	20	6
St Truiden	8	1	2	5	9	19	5
Geel	8	0	5	3	4	12	5
Beveren	7	0	1	6	8	23	1

SUPER CUP

Wednesday, September 1

Genk 1 (Pereira 17)
Lierse 3 (Peelman 35, Huysegems 83, 88) Att: 16,000

BULGARIA

Sep 11: CSKA 3 Slavia 1; Lok Sofia 5 Spartak Varna 0; Olympic-Beroe 0 Lev Sofia 1; Belasitsa 1 Shumen 0; Velbazhd 2 Botev 0; Minjor 4 Dobrudzha 0; Lovech 2 Chernomorets 0; Neftohimik 1 Pirin 1.
Sep 18: Chernomorets 0 Neftohimik 0; Spartak Varna 0 Slavia 0; Botev 1 Minjor 0; Pirin 1 Velbazhd 0; Lok Sofia 4 Olympic-Beroe 1; Shumen 1 Lovech 0; Lev Sofia 6 Belasitsa 0; Dobrudzha 0 CSKA 3.
Sep 25: Lovech 1 Lev Sofia 1; Olympic-Beroe 2 Spartak Varna 0; Belasitsa 2 Lok Sofia 2; Velbazhd 2 Chernomorets 1; Minjor 2 Pirin 0; CSKA 4 Botev 0; Slavia 2 Dobrudzha 1; Neftohimik 1 Shumen 0.
Oct 2: Spartak Varna 2 Dobrudzha 0; Botev 6 Slavia 0; Chernomorets 2 Minjor 1; Shumen 1 Velbazhd 2; Olympic-Beroe 1 Belasitsa 0; Lok Sofia 2 Lovech 1; Pirin 0 CSKA 1; Lev Sofia 2 Neftohimik 0.

BULGARIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Levski	8	7	1	0	24	2	22
CSKA	8	7	0	1	19	6	21
Velbazhd	8	6	0	2	12	6	18
Lokomotiv	8	5	2	1	21	9	17
Neftohimik	8	4	3	1	10	7	15
Lovech	8	4	1	3	10	6	13
Olympic-Beroe	8	4	0	4	12	11	12
Slavia	8	3	2	3	9	13	11
Belasitsa	8	3	1	4	8	15	10
Spartak Varna	8	3	1	4	7	14	10
Botev	8	3	0	5	12	15	9
Chernomorets	8	2	2	4	7	9	8
Pirin	8	2	1	5	6	15	7
Minjor	8	2	0	6	9	13	6
Shumen	8	2	0	6	5	14	6
Dobrudzha	8	0	0	8	3	19	0

CROATIA

Sep 7: Cibalia 0 Slaven 0; Osijek 0 Zagreb 0; Hrvatski drag 1 Vukovar '91 1; Hajduk 1 Istra 0; Croatia 1 Rijeka 1; Varteks 0 Sibenik 0.
Sep 10: Istra 0 Croatia 4.
Sep 11: Sibenik 2 Cibalia 2; Rijeka 2 Varteks 0; Vukovar '91 0 Hajduk 2; Zagreb 3 Hrvatski drag 3; Slaven 1 Osijek 4.
Sep 17: Croatia 5 Vukovar '91 0.
Sep 18: Hrvatski drag 2 Slaven 2; Varteks 4 Istra 1; Sibenik 0 Rijeka 2.
Sep 19: Cibalia 2 Osijek 2; Hajduk 3 Zagreb 0.
Sep 25: Osijek 2 Hrvatski drag 1; Zagreb 0 Croatia 1; Vukovar '91 2 Varteks 2; Slaven 0 Hajduk 0; Istra 0 Sibenik 0.
Sep 26: Rijeka 1 Cibalia 3.
Oct 2: Varteks 1 Zagreb 1; Sibenik 2 Vukovar '91 1; Cibalia 2 Hrvatski drag 0; Croatia 5 Slaven 1; Rijeka 4 Istra 1.
Oct 3: Hajduk 5 Osijek 4.

CROATIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Croatia Zagreb	8	6	2	0	23	4	20
Hajduk	8	6	1	1	18	9	19
Osijek	8	4	2	2	15	12	14
Rijeka	8	4	1	3	15	8	13
Cibalia	8	3	4	1	12	7	13
Varteks	8	2	3	3	11	15	9
Slaven	8	2	3	3	8	13	9
Sibenik	8	1	5	2	6	9	8
Vukovar '91	8	2	2	4	12	18	8
Zagreb	8	1	4	3	8	12	7
Hrvatski drag	8	1	4	3	12	18	7
Istra	8	0	1	7	6	21	1

CZECH REP

Sep 10: Jablonec 1 Bohemians 2.
Sep 11: Sparta 7 Ceske Budejovice 0; Dukla 1 Slavia 1; Teplice 2 Brno 1.
Sep 12: Zizkov 2 Kralove 1; Olomouc 0 Chmel Blsany 1; Drnovice 1 Liberec 1; Opava 2 Ostrava 3.
Sep 17: Liberec 1 Zizkov 0.
Sep 18: Brno 1 Sparta 1; Ostrava 1 Jablonec 1.
Sep 19: Kralove 2 Opava 2; Ceske Budejovice 5 Dukla 0; Chmel Blsany 0 Drnovice 2.
Sep 20: Bohemians 0 Teplice 0; Slavia 2 Olomouc 0.
Sep 24: Dukla 0 Olomouc 2; Sparta 0 Bohemians 0.
Sep 26: Zizkov 1 Chmel Blsany 1; Ceske Budejovice 1 Brno 0; Drnovice 0 Slavia 1; Opava 3 Liberec 1; Jablonec 0 Kralove 0; Teplice 0 Ostrava 2.
Oct 2: Bohemians 0 Ceske Budejovice 1; Chmel Blsany 1 Opava 0; Liberec 0 Jablonec 0; Ostrava 0 Sparta 3; Brno 0 Dukla 0.
Oct 4: Kralove 2 Teplice 0; Olomouc 1 Drnovice 2; Slavia 3 Zizkov 1.

CZECH REP

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Slavia	9	7	2	0	14	4	23
Ceske Budejovice	9	6	1	2	15	11	19
Sparta	9	5	3	1	21	8	18
Drnovice	9	5	1	3	11	8	16
Bohemians	9	3	4	2	8	6	13
Ostrava	9	3	3	3	15	13	12
Liberec	9	2	6	1	8	7	12
Brno	9	3	2	4	10	12	11
Teplice	9	3	2	4	11	14	11
Chmel Blsany	9	3	2	4	8	14	11
Opava	9	2	3	4	13	12	9
Jablonec	9	2	3	4	7	12	9
Dukla	9	2	3	4	6	13	9
Olomouc	9	1	4	4	7	10	7
Zizkov	9	1	4	4	11	16	7
Kralove	9	1	3	5	8	13	6

DENMARK

Sep 10: AaB 0 Lyngby 2.
Sep 12: AB 1 Silkeborg 1; Viborg 2 Brondby 0; FC Copenhagen 1 Vejle 0; AGF 3 OB 3.
Sep 13: Herfolge 2 Esbjerg 0.
Sep 19: Vejle 2 AaB 2; Esbjerg 1 Viborg 2; AB 2 Herfolge 2; Lyngby 3 AGF 1; Silkeborg 0 OB 1.
Sep 20: Brondby 3 FC Copenhagen 1.
Sep 26: Viborg 1 AB 3; FC Copenhagen 3 Esbjerg 0; AaB 3 Brondby 1; AGF 1 Vejle 2; OB 0 Lyngby 0.
Sep 27: Herfolge 3 Silkeborg 2.
Oct 3: Vejle 1 OB 1; Brondby 3 AGF 0; AB 1 FC Copenhagen 2; Herfolge 2 Viborg 1; Lyngby 1 Silkeborg 3.
Oct 6: Silkeborg 1 Viborg 1; FC Copenhagen 0 Herfolge 1; AaB 2 AB 2; AGF 2 Esbjerg 1; OB 2 Brondby 1; Lyngby 5 Vejle 1.

DENMARK

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Herfolge	11	7	4	0	20	11	25
AB	11	6	4	1	19	8	22
Brondby	11	6	1	4	19	13	19
AaB	10	5	3	2	17	13	18
Viborg	11	5	3	3	16	14	18
Lyngby	11	5	1	5	18	14	16
Silkeborg	11	4	3	4	18	10	15
FC Copenhagen	11	4	1	6	9	11	13
OB	11	2	5	4	10	15	11
AGF	11	2	3	6	10	18	9
Vejle	11	1	5	5	10	23	8
Esbjerg	10	1	1	8	7	23	4

ENGLAND

Monday, August 30

Leicester 1 (Izzet 44)
Watford 0 Att: 17,920

Saturday, September 11

Arsenal 3 (Suker 45, 49, Kanu 82)
Aston Villa 1 (Joachim 44) Att: 35,092

Bradford 1 (McCall 90)
Tottenham 1 (Perry 76) Att: 18,143

Chelsea 1 (Leboeuf pen 37)
Newcastle 0 Att: 35,092

Coventry 3 (McAllister pen 2, Aloisi 17, Chippo 54)
Leeds 4 (Bowyer 7, Huckerby 25, Harte pen 33, Bridges 60) Att: 21,532

Liverpool 2 (Hyypia 23, Berger 68)
Man Utd 3 (Carragher og 4, Cole 18, Carragher og 44) Att: 44,929

Middlesbrough 3 (Pallister 17, Gascoigne pen 67, Deane 78)
Southampton 2 (Kachloul 15, Pahars 55) Att: 32,165

Sheffield Wed 0
Everton 2 (Barmby 14, Gemmill 18) Att: 23,539

Sunderland 2 (Butler 28, McCann 82)
Leicester 0 Att: 30,105

West Ham 1 (Di Canio 48)
Watford 0 Att: 25,310

Wimbledon 2 (Hartson 62, Euell 63)
Derby 2 (Carbonari 14, Johnson 81) Att: 12,282

Saturday, September 18

Aston Villa 1 (Dublin 71)
Bradford 0 Att: 28,083

Derby 0
Sunderland 5 (McCann 24, Phillips 42, 52, 85, Quinn 55) Att: 28,264

Leicester 2 (Cottee 2, Izzett 86)
Liverpool 2 (Owen pen 23, 39) Att: 21,623

Man Ud 1 (Cruyff 73)
Wimbledon 1 (Badir 16) Att: 55,189

Southampton 0
Arsenal 1 (Henry 79) Att: 15,242

Watford 1 (Smart 57)
Chelsea 0 Att: 21,244

Sunday, September 19

Everton 1 (Jeffers 64)
West Ham 0 Att: 35,154

Leeds 2 (Bridges 14, Kewell 64)
Middlesbrough 0 Att: 34,122

Newcastle 8 (Hughes 11, Shearer 30, pen 33, 42, 79, pen 84, Dyer 47, Speed 77)
Sheffield Wed 0 Att: 36,619

Tottenham 3 (Iversen 7, Armstrong 50, Leonhardsen 51)
Coventry 2 (Keane 54, Chippo 75) Att: 35,224

Saturday, September 25

Arsenal 1 (Kanu 86)
Watford 0 Att: 38,127

Coventry 1 (Hadji 36)
West Ham 0 Att: 19,993

Derby 0
Bradford 1 (Carbonari og 66) Att: 31,035

Leeds 3 (Bowyer 11, Kewell 39, Bridges 77)
Newcastle 2 (Shearer 42, 54) Att: 40,192

Leicester 3 (Izzet 40, Southgate og 48, Cottee 55)
Aston Villa 1 (Dublin 73) Att: 19,917

Man United 3 (Sheringham 34, Yorke 37, 64)
Southampton 3 (Pahars 17, Le Tissier 51, 73) Att: 55,249

Middlesbrough 0
Chelsea 1 (Lambourde 54) Att: 34,183

Sunderland 1 (Schwarz 51)
Sheffield Wed 0 Att: 41,132

Sunday, September 26

Wimbledon 1 (Hartson 57)
Tottenham 1 (Carr 76) Att: 17,368

Monday, September 27

Liverpool 0
Everton 1 (Campbell 4) Att: 44,802

Saturday, October 2

Aston Villa 0
Liverpool 0 Att: 39,217

Bradford 0
Sunderland 4 (Rae 17, Quinn 68, Phillips 88, pen 90) Att: 18,204

Everton 1 (Jeffers 2)
Coventry 1 (McAllister 11) Att: 34,839

Sheffield Wed 5 (Jonk 9, De Bilde 23, 82, Rudi 70, Sibon 90)
Wimbledon 1 (Hartson 14) Att: 18,077

Sunday, October 3

Chelsea 5 (Poyet 1, 54, Sutton 16, Berg og 59, Morris 81)
Man Utd 0 Att: 34,909

Newcastle 2 (Shearer 17, 44)
Middlesbrough 1 (Deane 89) Att: 36,421

Tottenham 2 (Iversen 26, 35)
Leicester 3 (Izzet pen 25, 69, Taggart 76) Att: 35,591

Watford 1 (Williams 42)
Leeds 2 (Bridges 45, Kewell 70) Att: 19,677

West Ham 2 (Di Canio 29, 72)
Arsenal 1 (Suker 77) Att: 26,009

Monday, October 4

Southampton 3 (Pahars 22, Oakley 35, Ripley 66)
Derby 3 (Delap 21, Laursen 75, Beck 90)

ENGLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Leeds	10	7	1	2	19	12	22
Man Utd	10	6	3	1	23	15	21
Sunderland	10	6	2	2	18	8	20
Chelsea	8	6	1	1	15	3	19
Arsenal	10	6	1	3	13	9	19
Everton	10	5	2	3	16	10	17
Leicester	10	5	2	3	17	13	17
Aston Villa	10	5	2	3	11	9	17
West Ham	8	5	1	2	11	6	16
Tottenham	9	4	2	3	16	14	14
Middlesbrough	10	4	0	6	11	15	12
Liverpool	9	3	2	4	10	10	11
Southampton	9	3	2	4	16	19	11
Coventry	10	2	3	5	12	14	9
Watford	10	3	0	7	6	11	9
Derby	10	2	3	5	10	18	9
Wimbledon	10	1	5	4	14	23	8
Bradford	9	2	2	5	4	13	8
Newcastle	10	2	1	7	20	23	7
Sheffield Wed	10	1	1	8	8	25	4

FRANCE

Friday, September 10

Bastia 1 (Andre 75)
Nancy 1 (Ouadah 86) Att: 6,000

Lens 0
Sedan 3 (Quint pen 36, Deblock 37, Mionnet 90) Att: 39,127

Lyon 0
Auxerre 0 Att: 36,705

Metz 0
Strasbourg 0 Att: 22,000

Montpellier 3 (Delaye 56, 62, Ouedec 79)
Marseille 1 (Dugarry 1) Att: 27,960

Saint-Etienne 3 (Alex Dias 7, Guel pen 13, Potillon 69)
Le Havre 3 (Pouget 35, Deniaud 58, Weber 62) Att: 26,742

Troyes 1 (Saifi 53)
Nantes 0 Att: 14,204

Sunday, September 12

Paris SG 2 (Madar 32, Okocha 84)
Bordeaux 1 (Wiltord pen 86) Att: 43,735

Rennes 2 (Da Costa og 25, Nonda 68)
Monaco 1 (Gallardo 24) Att: 14,297

Saturday, September 18

Auxerre 2 (Guivarc'h pen 74, Carnot 77)
Saint-Etienne 1 (Alex 50) Att: 7,000

Bordeaux 1 (Wiltord 80)
Lyon 3 (Carteron 6, Anderson 10, 66) Att: 26,000

Le Havre 1 (Sikora og 24)
Lens 1 (Sakho 26) Att: 7,000

Marseille 1 (Ravanelli 40)
Troyes 0 Att: 45,000

Monaco 2 (N'Diaye 17, Trezeguet 65)
Metz 2 (Gaillot 76, Skachenko 84) Att: 5,000

Nancy 1 (Correa 66)
Montpellier 2 (Silvestre 41, Loko 75) Att: 4,000

Nantes 3 (Carriere 5, 21, Sibierski 51)
Rennes 0 Att: 20,000

Sedan 2 (Mionnet 13, DeBlock 87)
Bastia 0 Att: 6,000

Strasbourg 1 (Echouafni 69)
Paris SG 1 (Madar pen 64) Att: 20,000

Saturday, September 25

Bastia 1 (Jurietti 28)
Le Havre 1 (Pouget 38) Att: 6,000

Bordeaux 1 (Laslandes 7)
Auxerre 0 Att: 26,650

Lens 0
Saint-Etienne 2 (Alex 37, Aloisio 43) Att: 40,000

Lyon 0
Strasbourg 0 Att: 30,000

Metz 2 (Skachenko 9, Boffin 68)
Nantes 1 (Monterrubio 64) Att: 16,000

Montpellier 1 (Loko pen 74)
Sedan 1 (N'Diefi 90) Att: 15,000

Paris SG 0
Monaco 3 (Trezeguet pen 63, Leonard 80, Giuly 90) Att: 43,867

Rennes 1 (Gava 5)
Marseille 2 (Ravanelli pen 35, Brando 55) Att: 20,000

Troyes 2 (Djukic 78, Ghazi 90)
Nancy 0 Att: 10,000

Saturday, October 2

Le Havre 2 (Debeve 46, Pouget 54)
Montpellier 1 (Ouedec 42)

Marseille 1 (Ravanelli 56)
Metz 1 (Padovano 85)

Nancy 3 (Cascarino 45, pen 67, 83)
Rennes 0

Sedan 2 (Di Rocco 35, 48)
Troyes 1 (Ghazi 39)

Saint-Etienne 1 (Alex 3)
Bastia 1 (Andre 78)

Strasbourg 2 (Beye 8, Camadini 64)
Bordeaux 2 (Wiltord 42, 76)

Sunday, October 3

Auxerre 3 (Diomede 29, 45, Guivarc'h 60)
Lens 2 (Blanchard 13, Fanfan 77)

Monaco 1 (Gallardo 4)
Lyon 0

Nantes 0
Paris SG 4 (Algerino 7, Madar 27, Leroy 63, 85)

FRANCE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Monaco	9	5	2	2	19	9	17
Paris SG	9	5	2	2	14	9	17
Auxerre	9	5	2	2	13	11	17
Sedan	9	5	1	3	16	13	16
Lyon	9	4	3	2	10	7	15
Marseille	9	3	5	1	12	9	14
Strasbourg	9	3	4	2	9	9	13
Bordeaux	9	3	3	3	15	13	12
Nantes	9	4	0	5	11	10	12
Metz	9	2	5	2	9	7	11
Montpellier	9	3	2	4	13	16	11
Nancy	9	3	1	5	13	13	10
Saint-Etienne	9	2	4	3	16	17	10
Bastia	9	2	4	3	11	14	10
Le Havre	9	2	4	3	10	13	10
Troyes	9	3	0	6	7	14	9
Lens	9	2	2	5	6	12	8
Rennes	9	2	2	5	9	17	8

GERMANY

Friday, September 10

Arminia Bielefeld 0
Wolfsburg 0 Att: 24,092

Hansa Rostock 2 (Oswald 4, Agali 90)
Ulm 1 (Gora 79) Att: 20,000

Saturday, September 11

Bayer Leverkusen 3 (Neuville 64, Reichenberger 68, Brdaric 76)
Schalke 2 (Sand 36, 80) Att: 22,500

Borussia Dortmund 1 (Bobic 90)
Freiburg 1 (Baya 41) Att: 65,000

Duisburg 1 (Osthoff 67)
Bayern Munich 2 (Tarnat 7, Linke 43) Att: 30,112

Hamburg 5 (Mahdavikia 2, Prager 24, 41, 67, N Kovac 90)
Hertha 1 (Dardai 84) Att: 40,701

Unterhaching 2 (Rraklli 27, Kogl 62)
Stuttgart 0 Att: 10,300

Sunday, September 12

1860 Munich 2 (Max 25, Cerny 83)
Eintracht Frankfurt 0 Att: 32,500

Werder Bremen 5 (Pizarro 20, Bode 42, Bogdanovic 47, Frings 49, Dabrovski 89)
Kaiserslautern 0 Att: 28,885

Friday, September 17

Freiburg 5 (Muller 12, Sellimi pen 26, 42, 77, Baya 39)
Hansa Rostock 0 Att: 25,000

1860 Munich 0
Borussia Dortmund 3 (Moller 24, Kurz og 42, Bobic 49) Att: 32,000

Saturday, September 18

Eintracht Frankfurt 1 (Salou 20)
Bayern Munich 2 (Elber 66, Kuffour 80) Att: 58,245

Hertha 0
Bayer Leverkusen 0 Att: 48,667

Schalke 1 (Sand 77)
Unterhaching 0 Att: 36,500

Stuttgart 4 (Bordon 18, Ganea 44, 75, Tofting og 77)
Duisburg 2 (Hirsch 30, Beierle 59) Att: 20,000

Ulm 2 (Zdrilic 15, Scharinger 27)
Arminia Bielefeld 0 Att: 20,000

Sunday, September 19

Kaiserslautern 2 (Koch 23, Marschall 35)
Hamburg 0 Att: 41,500

Wolfsburg 2 (Juskowiak 4, Akpoborie 37)
Werder Bremen 7 (Bode 25, 40, 89, Ailton 42, Pizarro 46, 71, 83) Att: 20,400

Friday, September 24

Bayern Munich 0
Stuttgart 1 (Balakov pen 75) Att: 62,000

Hamburg 2 (Cardoso 10, 56)
Wolfsburg 2 (Akpoborie 12, 65) Att: 42,232

Saturday, September 25

Borussia Dortmund 1 (Ricken 34)
Eintracht Frankfurt 0 Att: 68,600

Duisburg 1 (Hirsch 48)
Schalke 1 (Van Kerckhoven 79) Att: 21,982

Hansa Rostock 0
1860 Munich 0 Att: 18,000

Unterhaching 1 (Garcia 46)
Hertha 1 (Helmer 24) Att: 10,000

Werder Bremen 2 (Baumann 16, Maximov 82)
Ulm 2 (Zdrilic 60, Van der Haar pen 75) Att: 32,106

Sunday, September 26

Arminia Bielefeld 2 (Stratos 56, Hermel og 68)
Freiburg 1 (Baya 39) Att: 20,035

Bayer Leverkusen 3 (Brdaric 60, Kirsten 82, 85)
Kaiserslautern 1 (Schjonberg pen 27) Att: 22,500

Friday, October 1

Eintracht Frankfurt 0
Stuttgart 1 (Balakov 74) Att: 30,000

1860 Munich 5 (Max 22, pen 63, Hassler 61, Tyce 71, Agostino 90)
Arminia Bielefeld 0 Att: 20,000

Saturday, October 2

Borussia Dortmund 3 (Ikpeba 56, 88, Reina 64)
Hansa Rostock 0 Att: 62,500

Hertha 2 (Preetz 66, 69)
Duisburg 1 (U Spies 51) Att: 35,000

Schalke 1 (Wilmots 52)
Bayern Munich 1 (Effenberg 90) Att: 62,109

Ulm 1 (Trkulja 74)
Hamburg 2 (Hoogma 87, Yeboah 90) Att: 23,000

Wolfsburg 3 (Akpoborie 35, Sebescen 47, Juskowiak 55)
Bayer Leverkusen 1 (Beinlich 81) Att: 20,000

Sunday, October 3

Freiburg 2 (Zeyer 33, Sellimi 63)
Werder Bremen 1 (Bogdanovic 60) Att: 25,000

Kaiserslautern 4 (Sforza 21, Koch 60, Djorkaeff 66, 83)
Unterhaching 2 (Seitz 15, 68) Att: 39,700

GERMANY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dortmund	7	5	1	1	11	3	16
Hamburg	7	4	2	1	17	9	14
Leverkusen	7	4	2	1	11	7	14
Freiburg	7	3	2	2	15	8	11
Bayern Munich	7	3	2	2	8	8	11
Wolfsburg	7	3	2	2	12	13	11
1860 Munich	7	3	1	3	12	9	10
Hertha	7	2	4	1	11	11	10
Stuttgart	7	3	1	3	7	9	10
Werder Bremen	7	2	3	2	16	8	9
Schalke	7	2	3	2	8	9	9
Bielefeld	7	2	3	2	6	10	9
Kaiserslautern	7	3	0	4	10	16	9
Eintracht	7	2	1	4	9	10	7
Unterhaching	7	2	1	4	7	10	7
Hansa Rostock	7	2	1	4	8	18	7
Ulm	7	1	2	4	8	12	5
Duisburg	7	0	3	4	7	13	3

GREECE

Sep 19: Proodeftiki 0 Olympiakos 3; Kalamata 0 OFI 0; Ethnikos A 1 Kavala 0; Panionios 1 Paniliakos 2.
Sep 20: PAOK 4 AEK 4; Panathinaikos 2 Trikala 0; Panahaiki 1 Ionikos 1; Xanthi 0 Aris 0; Iraklis 1 Apollon 0.
Sep 25: Olympiakos 5 Panionios 0.
Sep 26: AEK 1 Panathinaikos 2; PAOK 4 Kalamata 2; Apollon 0 Paniliakos 0; OFI 2 Xanthi 1; Aris 2 Panahaiki 0; Trikala 1 Ethnikos A 2; Ionikos 2 Proodeftiki 0.
Sep 27: Kavala 3 Iraklis 1.
Oct 3: Apollon 0 Olympiakos 1; Ethnikos A 1 AEK 3; Iraklis 4 Trikala 1; Kalamata 0 Xanthi 0; Panathinaikos 1 PAOK 1; Panahaiki 3 OFI 1; Paniliakos 2 Kavala 0.
Oct 4: Panionios 2 Ionikos 0; Proodeftiki 0 Aris 1.

GREECE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Olympiakos	3	3	0	0	9	0	9
Panathinaikos	3	2	1	0	5	2	7
Paniliakos	3	2	1	0	4	1	7
Aris	3	2	1	0	3	0	7
Iraklis	3	2	0	1	6	4	6
Ethnikos A	3	2	0	1	4	4	6
PAOK	3	1	2	0	9	7	5
AEK	3	1	1	1	8	7	4
Panahaiki	3	1	1	1	4	4	4
Ionikos	3	1	1	1	3	3	4
OFI	3	1	1	1	3	4	4
Kavala	3	1	0	2	3	4	3
Panionios	3	1	0	2	3	7	3
Xanthi	3	0	2	1	1	2	2
Kalamata	3	0	2	1	2	4	2
Apollon	3	0	1	2	0	2	1
Trikala	3	0	0	3	2	8	0
Proodeftiki	3	0	0	3	0	6	0

HOLLAND

Friday, September 10

Ajax 2 (Knopper 17, Wamberto 58)
Feyenoord 2 (Bosvelt 61, Kalou 68) Att: 51,234

AZ 1 (Huiberts 68)
Roda JC 2 (Doomernik 2, Zafarin 22) Att: 6,594

Saturday, September 11

Fortuna 0
RKC 2 (Hoogendorp 29, Yuri Cornelisse 90) Att: 7,000

Heerenveen 2 (Denneboom 36, Gerard de Nooijer 82)
Willem II 4 (Victoria 47, Bombarda 63, Sanou 89, 90) Att: 13,600

MVV 1 (Taiwo 90)
Cambuur 1 (Goudmijn 4) Att: 5,100

Twente 0
Vitesse 0 Att: 12,500

Sunday, September 12

De Graafschap 1 (Roelofsen 42)
PSV 2 (Khokhlov 21, Nilis 89) Att: 8,750

Sparta 3 (Marbus 34, 58, Elkhattabi 41)
Utrecht 0 Att: 6,800

Wednesday, September 15

AZ 0
Utrecht 1 (Lucius 6) Att: 6,750

Sparta 2 (Inia 84, 89)
De Graafschap 1 (Viscaal 60) Att: 5,450

Friday, September 17

Cambuur 1 (Nelisse 5)
Twente 3 (Van der Laan pen 50, De Witte 77, Vennegoor of Hesselink 90) Att: 7,500

Saturday, September 18

Den Bosch 1 (Deckers 81)
MVV 1 (Perez 69) Att: 3,852

Feyenoord 1 (Van Wonderen 75)
Fortuna 0 Att: 31,439

Willem II 3 (Ceesay 2, Arts 14, Sanou 78)
AZ 1 (Landerl 41) Att: 14,200

Sunday, September 19

RKC 1 (Lanckohr 88)
Ajax 1 (Knopper 34) Att: 6,100

Roda JC 0
Heerenveen 2 (Huizingh 5, Talan 51) Att: 7,100

Utrecht 2 (Vreven 32, Kuyt 85)
De Graafschap 1 (Issah 54) Att: 13,300

Vitesse 2 (Sikora 28, Van Hooijdonk pen 68)
Sparta 1 (Usta 85) Att: 24,200

Friday, September 24

Ajax 3 (Laudrup 22, 62, Arveladze 84)
Vitesse 1 (Van Hooijdonk 13) Att: 44,123

Saturday, September 25

Heerenveen 0
Twente 0 Att: 13,870

PSV 6 (Gentile og 19, Nikiforov 44, Vogel 47, Van Nistelrooy 74, pen 78, 89)
Willem II 1 (Arts 29) Att: 29,500

Roda JC 3 (Valgaeren 17, Tchoutang 55, Peeters 89)
Fortuna 0 Att: 7,300

Sunday, September 26

Cambuur 2 (Van der Heide 19, Nelisse 45)
AZ 4 (Van Galen 13, Bosman 49, 55, Boussatta 85) Att: 7,300

De Graafschap 2 (Meerdink 44, Viscaal 68)
NEC 2 (Renfurm 19, De Gier 63) Att: 8,950

Den Bosch 3 (Deckers 65, Vos 74, Van der Laan 89)
Utrecht 2 (Martel pen 2, Van der Gaag 87) Att: 4,450

Feyenoord 1 (Tomasson 69)
RKC 2 (Y Cornelisse 62, 90) Att: 30,700

Sparta 3 (Usta 22, Den Dunnen 40, Marilia 82)
MVV 0 Att: 5,623

Wednesday, September 29

NEC 2 (Schultz 1, De Gier 66)
Den Bosch 0 Att: 7,000

Friday, October 1

MVV 1 (Perez 35)
Heerenveen 3 (Talan 32, Lurling 65, 77)

Saturday, October 2

Fortuna 4 (Volmer 9, Hamming 13, 55, 69)
Cambuur 1 (Van der Heide pen 27)

PSV 7 (Van Bommel 1, Van Nistelrooy 26, 56, 85, Nilis 45, Khokhlov 62, Kolkka 72)
Sparta 0 Att: 27,500

RKC 2 (De Graef 74, Hoogendorp 76)
De Graafschap 1 (Meerdink 41) Att: 5,800

Twente 3 (De Witte 2, Heubach 5, Van der Laan pen 47)
Den Bosch 2 (Jones 30, Van der Laan pen 58) Att: 13,000

Sunday, October 3

AZ 0
Feyenoord 0 Att: 7,400

Utrecht 1 (Martel 29)
Roda JC 2 (Peeters pen 51, Doomernik 90)

Vitesse 5 (Van Hooijdonk 17, 25, 86, Sikora 66, Amoah 90)
NEC 1 (P Van Putten 20)

Willem II 3 (Bombarda 43, Sanou 52, Galasek 89)
Ajax 6 (Knopper 3, 15, Machlas 31, 53, Laudrup 87, Babangida 90)

HOLLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
PSV	6	6	0	0	27	5	18
Ajax	7	5	2	0	24	11	17
Feyenoord	7	4	2	1	15	5	14
RKC	7	4	2	1	11	7	14
Roda JC	7	4	1	2	12	9	13
Willem II	7	4	1	2	17	18	13
Utrecht	7	4	0	3	8	9	12
Twente	7	3	3	1	11	7	12
Vitesse	7	3	2	2	16	14	11
Heerenveen	7	3	1	3	13	12	10
AZ	7	3	1	3	10	10	10
Sparta	7	3	0	4	10	15	9
Den Bosch	7	1	2	4	8	15	5
NEC	6	1	1	4	10	16	4
Fortuna	7	1	1	5	8	13	4
De Graafschap	7	0	3	4	7	11	3
Cambuur	7	0	2	5	6	20	2
MVV	7	0	2	5	8	24	2

HUNGARY

Sep 10: Ujpest 2 Debrecen 2; Gyor 2 Vasas 0; Kispest Honved 5 Vac 1.
Sep 11: Tatabanya 2 Diosgyor 1; Ferencvaros 1 MTK 0; Szeged 1 Zalaegerszeg 0; Siofok 1 Dunaferr 1; Haladas 1 Gazszer 3.
Sep 12: Nagykanizsa 1 Nyiregyhaza 0.
Sep 17: Ujpest 1 Gyor 1.
Sep 18: Gazszer 3 Vasas 2; Diosgyor 1 Nagykanizsa 1; Zalaegerszeg 0 Haladas 1; Vac 1 Szeged 1.
Sep 19: Debrecen 1 Tatabanya 3; Dunaferr 1 Ferencvaros 0.
Sep 20: MTK 4 Kispest Honved 0.
Sep 24: Nagykanizsa 1 Debrecen 1; Kispest Honved 2 Dunaferr 2; Gyor 0 Gazszer 1.
Sep 25: Tatabanya 0 Ujpest 2; Vasas 1 Zalaegerszeg 0; Haladas 2 Vac 3; Szeged 1 MTK 2; Ferencvaros 4 Nyiregyhaza 0; Siofok 0 Diosgyor 2.
Oct 1: Ujpest 3 Nagykanizsa 1.
Oct 2: Tatabanya 1 Gyor 1; Dunaferr 9 Szeged 0; Nyiregyhaza 1 Kispest Honved 0; Vac 1 Vasas 3; Zalaegerszeg 5 Gazszer 0.
Oct 3: Debrecen 3 Siofok 0; Diosgyor 0 Ferencvaros 0; MTK 2 Haladas 2.

HUNGARY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Gazszer	8	6	1	1	15	11	19
Vasas	9	6	0	2	14	7	18
Dunaferr	8	4	3	1	23	9	15
MTK	7	4	2	1	14	6	14
Debrecen	8	4	2	2	13	9	14
Gyor	8	3	3	2	13	6	12
Tatabanya	8	3	3	2	11	12	12
Zalaegerszeg	8	3	2	3	12	4	11
Ferencvaros	8	3	2	3	11	7	11
Ujpest	7	3	2	2	13	12	11
Nyiregyhaza	8	3	2	3	9	13	11
Nagykanizsa	8	2	4	2	10	11	10
Diosgyor	8	2	3	3	10	12	9
Kispest Honved	8	2	2	4	9	12	8
Haladas	8	2	1	5	9	17	7
Szeged	8	1	2	5	6	21	5
Vac	8	1	1	6	9	19	4
Siofok	8	1	1	6	3	16	1

ITALY

Monday, August 30

Lazio 2 (Veron 5, S Inzaghi 64)
Cagliari 1 (O'Neill 78) Att: 51,319

Saturday, September 11

Bari 0
Lazio 0 Att: 28,067

Reggina 2 (Kallon pen 18, Reggi 86)
Fiorentina 2 (Firicano 33, Heinrich 41) Att: 24,696

Udinese 3 (Poggi pen 9, Locatelli 75, Muzzi 81)
Piacenza 0 Att: 18,074

Sunday, September 12

Cagliari 0
Juventus 1 (Conte 62) Att: 25,541

Milan 3 (Bierhoff 27, Shevchenko 59, Leonardo 71)
Perugia 1 (Materazzi 40) Att: 52,834

Parma 1 (Ingesson og 82)
Bologna 1 (Signori 47) Att: 21,637

Roma 0
Inter 0 Att: 73,260

Torino 2 (Ferrante 64, Artistico 87)
Venezia 1 (Valtolina 34) Att: 20,151

Verona 2 (Marasco 17, Aglietti 43)
Lecce 0 Att: 14,392

Saturday, September 18

Bari 1 (Osmanovski 12)
Milan 1 (Serginho 35) Att: 39,284

Perugia 3 (Nakata 16, Materazzi 32, Melli 38)
Cagliari 0 Att: 15,136

Sunday, September 19

Bologna 0
Reggina 1 (Possanzini 74) Att: 28,123

Fiorentina 4 (Batistuta 17, 31, 81, Chiesa 48)
Verona 1 (Melis 69) Att: 35,668

Inter 5 (Zamorano 8, 64, Vieri 17, Moriero 39, Thuram og 71)
Parma 1 (Crespo 14) Att: 69,084

Juventus 4 (Del Piero pen 20, Inzaghi pen 22, 39, Zambrotta 48)
Udinese 1 (Bisgaard 72) Att: 36,122

Lazio 3 (Veron pen 14, Inzaghi 45, Salas 88)
Torino 0 Att: 45,603

Piacenza 1 (Dionigi 4)
Lecce 1 (Lucarelli 41) Att: 9,899

Venezia 1 (Petkovic 58)
Roma 3 (Delvecchio 39, 45, Alenichev 72) Att: 10,655

Saturday, September 25

Lecce 2 (Lima 3, Conticchio 51)
Juventus 0 Att: 35,017

Milan 4 (Weah 7, Leonardo 44, Bierhoff pen 55, Ganz 63)
Bologna 0 Att: 60,000

Sunday, September 26

Cagliari 1 (Berretta 35)
Venezia 1 (Valtolina 4) Att: 16,295

Parma 1 (Boghossian 62)
Lazio 2 (Boghossian og 29, Almeyda 70) Att: 21,801

Reggina 1 (Cirillo 86)
Piacenza 0 Att: 21,548

Roma 3 (Montella 37, Assuncao 47, Totti pen 83)
Perugia 1 (Olive 82) Att: 56,580

Torino 0
Inter 1 (Vieri 75) Att: 40,452

Udinese 1 (Fiore 53)
Fiorentina 1 (Batistuta 8) Att: 19,623

Verona 0
Bari 1 (Osmanovski 42) Att: 13,449

Saturday, October 2

Cagliari 1 (Mboma 7)
Torino 1 (Ferrante pen 51) Att: 15,000

Inter 2 (Panucci 59, Ronaldo 69)
Piacenza 1 (Dionigi pen 82) Att: 85,000

Sunday, October 3

Bari 1 (Innocenti 10)
Udinese 1 (Warley 74)

Bologna 2 (Fontolan 24, Signori 34)
Lecce 0

Fiorentina 1 (Batistuta 75)
Roma 3 (Cafu 17, 66, Tommasi 59)

Juventus 1 (Conte 90)
Venezia 0

Lazio 4 (Veron 18, Abbiati og 36, Salas 38, 72)
Milan 4 (Mihajlovic og 34, Shevchenko 43, pen 57, 69) Att: 60,000

Parma 3 (Amoroso 3, Ortega 7, Crespo 35)
Verona 0

Perugia 2 (Stovini og 9, Nakata pen 27)
Reggina 1 (Giacchetta 47)

ITALY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Inter	5	4	1	0	11	2	13
Roma	5	3	2	0	10	4	11
Lazio	5	3	2	0	11	6	11
Juventus	5	3	1	1	7	4	10
Milan	5	2	3	0	14	8	9
Fiorentina	5	2	2	1	9	7	8
Reggina	5	2	2	1	6	5	8
Perugia	5	2	1	2	8	8	7
Udinese	5	1	3	1	7	7	6
Bari	5	1	3	1	3	3	6
Parma	5	1	2	2	7	9	5
Lecce	5	1	2	2	5	7	5
Bologna	5	1	2	2	3	6	5
Torino	5	1	2	2	3	6	5
Verona	5	1	0	4	3	11	3
Venezia	5	0	2	3	4	8	2
Cagliari	5	0	2	3	3	8	2
Piacenza	5	0	2	3	3	8	2

NORWAY

Sep 11: Stromsgodset 4 Stabaek 3; Brann 2 Rosenborg 1.
Sep 12: Bodo/Glimt 4 Moss 0; Kongsvinger 1 Lillestrom 1; Molde 3 Viking 4; Tromso 8 Skeid 2; Valerenga 2 Odd Grenland 1.
Sep 18: Stabaek 4 Molde 2; Viking 2 Brann 0.
Sep 19: Lillestrom 3 Bodo/Glimt 0; Moss 1 Valerenga 0; Odd Grenland 2 Stromsgodset 2; Skeid 1 Rosenborg 7; Tromso 4 Kongsvinger 1.
Oct 3: Bodo/Glimt 1 Tromso 3; Kongsvinger 1 Skeid 2; Rosenborg 3 Viking 2; Stromsgodset 2 Moss 5; Valerenga 3 Lillestrom 1.

NORWAY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rosenborg	24	18	2	4	72	26	56
Brann	23	15	1	7	41	34	46
Lillestrom	24	14	3	7	56	37	45
Molde	23	13	2	8	45	37	41
Tromso	24	12	4	8	62	41	40
Stabaek	23	11	4	8	50	45	37
Viking	24	11	3	10	47	42	36
Odd Grenland	23	10	3	10	34	43	33
Bodo/Glimt	24	9	4	11	47	50	31
Moss	24	9	2	13	39	44	29
Valerenga	24	7	3	14	36	50	24
Stromsgodset	24	7	3	14	41	58	24
Skeid	24	6	2	16	31	69	20
Kongsvinger	24	5	2	17	31	56	17

POLAND

Sep 11: LKS 1 Halex 0; Zaglebie 1 Groclin 0; Amica 1 R Radzionkow 1; Legia 2 Widzew 1; Odra 1 Petro Plock 2.
Sep 12: Wisla 2 Polonia 3; Gornik 2 Pogon 2; Lech 1 R Chorzow 2.
Sep 18: R Chorzow 1 Wisla 1; Polonia 1 LKS 0; Halex 1 Gornik 0; Pogon 1 Zaglebie 0.
Sep 19: Groclin 1 Amica 1; Petro Plock 2 Lech 1; R Radzionkow 1 Legia 1; Widzew 1 Odra 1.
Sep 25: Amica 2 Pogon 2; Odra 0 R Radzionkow 0; Petro Plock 0 Widzew 0; Zaglebie 2 Halex 0; LKS 2 R Chorzow 2; Gornik 0 Polonia 1.
Sep 26: Lech 4 Wisla 1; Legia 5 Groclin 0.
Oct 2: Polonia 1 Zaglebie 1; R Radzionkow 2 Petro Plock 1; Groclin 0 Odra 1; Wisla 1 LKS 0; R Chorzow 2 Gornik 1.
Oct 3: Halex 1 Amica 1; Pogon 2 Legia 4; Widzew 2 Lech 2.

POLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
R Chorzow	11	7	4	0	21	9	25
Polonia	11	7	3	1	19	8	24
Wisla	11	6	3	2	21	15	21
Legia	11	4	6	1	21	14	18
Zaglebie	11	5	3	3	13	10	18
Amica	11	4	5	2	18	15	17
Petro Plock	11	5	2	4	15	15	17
Halex	11	4	4	3	12	14	16
Pogon	11	3	6	2	15	16	15
Gornik	11	3	4	4	22	16	13
R Radzionkow	11	3	3	5	8	17	12
Odra	11	2	4	5	11	14	10
LKS	10	2	4	4	5	8	10
Widzew	10	1	5	4	13	18	8
Lech	11	1	3	7	13	21	6
Groclin	11	0	1	10	6	25	1

PORTUGAL

Monday, August 30

Sporting Lisbon 2 (Ayew 53, Beto 78)
Vitoria Setubal 1 (Pedro Henriques 34)

Friday, September 10

Boavista 1 (Gilmar 26)
Belenenses 0

Saturday, September 11

Sporting Braga 0
FC Porto 1 (Jardel pen 47)

Sunday, September 12

Estrela Amadora 2 (Serginho 40, Raul Oliveira 89)
Guimaraes 2 (Edmilson 46, Riva 50)

Farense 0
Sporting Lisbon 3 (Ayew 2, Rui Jorge 7, Delfim 90)

Gil Vicente 2 (Ricardo Nascimento pen 53, 87)
Uniao Leiria 0

Rio Ave 4 (Hugo Henrique 40, 60, 72, Gama 75)
Salgueiros 1 (Paquito 90)

Santa Clara 0
Benfica 3 (Maniche 23, Kandaurov 25, Nuno Gomes 45)

Vitoria Setubal 4 (Paulo Filipe 51, Chiquinho 60, Sergio Joao 63, Semedo 84)
Maritimo 2 (Zeca 69, Toedtli 74)

Monday, September 13

Alverca 1 (Milinkovic pen 62)
Campomaiorense 0

Sunday, September 19

Belenenses 4 (Jose Carlos 8, 86, Seba 47, Cabral 72)
Alverca 2 (Caju 35, 84)

Campomaiorense 2 (Wellington 49, Rogerio Matias pen 90)
Sporting Braga 4 (Pedro Lavoura 5, Silva 52, Barroso 81, Castanheira 86)

Guimaraes 1 (Edmilson 50)
Gil Vicente 0

Maritimo 3 (Sumudica 27, Toedtli 56, Jokanovic 90)
Farense 0

FC Porto 4 (Jardel 15, 47, 75, Rui Barros 90)
Rio Ave 1 (Artur Jorge 27)

Salgueiros 2 (Renato pen 33, Ramos 90)
Santa Clara 0

Uniao Leiria 0
Boavista 0

Monday, September 20

Benfica 3 (Kandaurov pen 2, Maniche 33, Nuno Gomes 86)
Vitoria Setubal 0

Sporting Lisbon 1 (Acosta 56)
Estrela Amadora 1 (Eric Gaucho 9)

Friday, September 24

FC Porto 2 (Jardel 26, Feher 80)
Campomaiorense 0

Saturday, September 25

Farense 0
Benfica 1 (Nuno Gomes 30)

Gil Vicente 1 (Fangueiro 12)
Sporting Lisbon 1 (Delfim 79)

Sunday, September 26

Alverca 0
Uniao Leiria 0

Boavista 2 (Luis Manuel 66, Douala 90)
Guimaraes 0

Estrela Amadora 1 (Gilberto 46)
Maritimo 1 (Toedtli 40)

Rio Ave 0
Santa Clara 5 (George 12, 46, Clayton 21, 38, pen 54)

Sporting Braga 0
Belenenses 0

Vitoria Setubal 1 (Rui Gomes 67)
Salgueiros 2 (Basilio 23, Quim og 52)

Saturday, October 2

Campomaiorense 1 (Abilio 46)
Rio Ave 1 (Henrique 10)

Guimaraes 1 (Brandao pen 55)
Alverca 0

Sunday, October 3

Maritimo 1 (Toedtli 15)
Gil Vicente 0

Salgueiros 0
Farense 0

Uniao Leiria 3 (Derlei 5, Duah 35, Vouzela 80)
Sporting Braga 0

Monday, October 4

Belenenses 0
FC Porto 0

Benfica 2 (Okunowo 51, Ronaldo pen 59)
Estrela Amadora 0

Sporting Lisbon 2 (Delfim 37, Acosta pen 88)
Boavista 0

Tuesday, October 5

Santa Clara 2 (Clayton pen 3, 9)
Setubal 1 (Helio 46)

PORTUGAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Benfica	6	5	1	0	11	1	16
Sporting Lisbon	6	3	3	0	11	5	12
FC Porto	6	3	3	0	8	2	12
Guimaraes	6	3	2	1	8	5	11
Boavista	6	3	2	1	5	3	11
Salgueiros	6	3	1	2	6	6	10
Belenenses	6	2	3	1	8	4	9
Gil Vicente	6	2	2	2	7	4	8
Santa Clara	6	2	2	2	9	8	8
Maritimo	6	2	2	2	7	6	8
Alverca	6	2	2	2	6	7	8
Rio Ave	6	2	2	2	8	12	8
Uniao Leiria	6	1	3	2	5	5	6
Vitoria Setubal	6	1	1	4	8	12	4
Sporting Braga	6	1	1	4	6	10	4
Estrela Amadora	6	0	4	2	5	10	4
Farense	6	1	1	4	2	11	4
Campomaiorense	6	0	1	5	3	12	1

ROMANIA

Sep 10: Gloria 1 National 0; Steaua 5 Resita 0.
Sep 11: Dinamo 3 Rocar 0; Extensiv 1 Rapid 2; Arges 2 Farul 1; Bacau 1 Astra 2; Otelul 2 Onesti 1; Petrolul 1 Brasov 0.
Sep 12: Ceahlaul 1 U Craiova 1.
Sep 17: Brasov 4 Rocar 0; Astra 0 Ceahlaul 1.
Sep 18: Rapid 2 Petrolul 0; National 2 Extensiv 0; Farul 1 Otelul 1; Resita 0 Arges 0; Onesti 3 Gloria 2.
Sep 19: U Craiova 1 Steaua 2.
Sep 24: Steaua 4 Astra 1.
Sep 25: Dinamo 3 Brasov 1; Petrolul 1 National 0; Arges 2 U Craiova 0; Otelul 1 Resita 2; Gloria 2 Farul 1; Ceahlaul 3 Bacau 1; Extensiv 0 Onesti 0.
Sep 26: Rocar 0 Rapid 1.
Oct 1: U Craiova 4 Otelul 0.
Oct 2: Rapid 2 Brasov 1; National 2 Rocar 0; Bacau 2 Steaua 1; Farul 1 Extensiv 0; Resita 1 Gloria 1; Astra 0 Arges 1; Onesti 5 Petrolul 1.
Oct 3: Ceahlaul 2 Dinamo 2.

ROMANIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dinamo	10	9	1	0	32	6	28
Arges	11	8	1	2	16	6	25
Rapid	10	7	2	1	14	7	23
Ceahlaul	10	6	3	1	18	12	21
Steaua	11	6	0	5	22	19	18
Otelul	11	5	2	4	21	19	17
Gloria	11	5	1	5	18	19	16
Bacau	10	4	3	3	14	14	15
Petrolul	11	5	0	6	14	20	15
National	10	4	2	4	14	11	14
Farul	11	4	2	5	15	14	14
Onesti	11	4	2	5	14	16	14
Astra	10	4	1	5	15	15	13
Brasov	11	3	1	7	14	15	10
Rocar	11	3	0	8	10	21	9
U Craiova	11	2	2	7	12	17	8
Extensiv	11	2	1	8	9	24	7
Resita	11	1	4	6	10	27	7

RUSSIA

Sep 11: Chernomorets 1 Rotor 1; CSKA 2 Rostselmash 0; Zenit 1 Lokomotiv NN 0; Shinnik 0 Saturn 0; Uralan 1 Zhemchuzhina 1; Alaniya 0 Lokomotiv M 2; Kryliya Sovetov 1 Dinamo 2.
Sep 18: Zhemchuzhina 1 Shinnik 0; Lokomotiv NN 2 Spartak 4; Torpedo 2 CSKA 2; Rostselmash 1 Rotor 1; Dinamo 0 Alaniya 0; Kryliya Sovetov 1 Chernomorets 1.
Sep 19: Saturn 1 Zenit 0; Lokomotiv M 1 Uralan 0.
Sep 25: Chernomorets 1 Rostselmash 0; Rotor 0 Torpedo 2; CSKA 3 Lokomotiv NN 1; Zenit 3 Zhemchuzhina 1; Shinnik 2 Lokomotiv M 4; Uralan 1 Dinamo 0; Alaniya 1 Kryliya Sovetov 1.
Sep 28: Rostselmash 4 Alaniya 2.
Oct 2: Dinamo 3 Shinnik 1; Saturn 2 CSKA 3; Lokomotiv NN 1 Rotor 1; Torpedo 1 Rostselmash 2; Kryliya Sovetov 0 Uralan 1; Alaniya 3 Chernomorets 1.
Oct 3: Zhemchuzhina 3 Spartak 7; Lokomotiv M 1 Zenit 1.

RUSSIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Spartak	27	20	5	2	68	23	65
Lokomotiv M	26	18	5	3	58	26	59
CSKA	26	13	9	4	48	26	48
Torpedo	26	11	10	5	34	29	43
Alaniya	26	11	6	9	49	36	39
Dinamo	26	11	6	9	40	35	39
Zenit	26	9	9	8	32	29	36
Rostselmash	26	9	7	10	28	32	34
Uralan	26	8	5	13	21	32	29
Lokomotiv NN	26	8	5	13	29	43	29
Saturn	26	7	7	12	25	35	28
Chernomorets	26	7	7	12	25	40	28
Rotor	26	6	8	12	31	46	26
Kryliya Sovetov	27	6	6	15	33	45	24
Zhemchuzhina	26	5	9	12	25	47	24
Shinnik	26	4	8	14	17	39	20

SCOTLAND

Saturday, September 11

Dundee Utd 3 (Telesnikov 4, Hannah 71, Dodds pen 90)
Hibernian 1 (Latapy 49) Att: 8,167

Hearts 4 (Adam 7, Jackson 73, Cameron 75, Severin 81)
Dundee 0 Att: 13,378

Rangers 3 (Mols 16, 47, Albertz 85)
Aberdeen 0 Att: 49,226

St Johnstone 1 (Thomas 25)
Motherwell 1 (Spencer 61) Att: 5,467

Sunday, September 12

Kilmarnock 0
Celtic 1 (Burchill 73) Att: 14,328

Saturday, September 18

Aberdeen 1 (Dow 51)
Dundee Utd 2 (Hannah 33, Dodds 65) Att: 11,814

Sunday, September 19

Dundee 1 (Reilly 12)
St Johnstone 2 (Jeffrey 80, McCoist 90) Att: 5,283

Hibernian 0
Kilmarnock 3 (Yates 10, Lowndes 81, 83) Att: 11,337

Saturday, September 25

Dundee Utd 0
Hearts 2 (Adam 14, 89) Att: 8,510

Hibernian 0
Celtic 2 (Viduka 56, 66) Att: 14,743

Kilmarnock 0
Dundee 2 (Boyack 41, Rae 83) Att: 7,433

Rangers 3 (Albertz 33, pen 59, Mols 87)
St Johnstone 1 (Simao 61) Att: 47,145

Saturday, October 2

Aberdeen 2 (Jess 58, Gillies 85)
Hibernian 2 (Paatelainen 82, Jack 87) Att: 11,876

Dundee 2 (McSkimming 57, Falconer 70)
Rangers 3 (Kanchelskis 30, Wallace 80, Amato 85) Att: 10,494

SCOTLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rangers	8	8	0	0	24	6	24
Celtic	7	6	0	1	18	3	18
Dundee United	8	4	2	2	12	12	14
Hearts	7	4	1	2	14	10	13
St Johnstone	8	3	2	3	11	13	11
Dundee	9	3	0	6	14	17	9
Kilmarnock	8	2	1	5	6	8	7
Hibernian	9	1	4	4	11	18	7
Motherwell	6	1	3	2	7	11	6
Aberdeen	8	0	1	7	3	22	1

SPAIN

Saturday, September 11

Barcelona 3 (Rivaldo 75, 86, Kluivert 84)
Espanyol 0 Att: 80,000

La Coruna 2 (Makaay 1, Djalminha pen 27)
Valladolid 0 Att: 20,000

Valencia 0
Alaves 2 (Magno 84, Astudillo 88) Att: 40,000

Sunday, September 12

Athletic Bilbao 2 (Guerrero 16, Geremi og 41)
Real Madrid 2 (McManaman 20, Guti 75) Att: 39,000

Atletico Madrid 1 (Valeron 36)
Celta Vigo 2 (Karpin pen 31, Juanfran 85) Att: 45,000

Malaga 3 (Valvarce 21, De Los Santos 51, Catanha 70)
Betis Sevilla 0 Att: 35,000

Mallorca 3 (Stankovic pen 1, Carlos 21, Diego Tristan 29)
Numancia 0 Att: 14,000

Oviedo 1 (Dely Valdes 75)
Racing Santander 2 (Salva pen 8, pen 45) Att: 10,800

Rayo Vallecano 2 (Ferron 18, Michel I 90)
Real Sociedad 1 (Idiakez 55) Att: 8,000

Sevilla 0
Zaragoza 0 Att: 35,000

Saturday, September 18

Alaves 2 (Astudillo 42, Nan Ribera 70)
Barcelona 1 (Dani 22) Att: 18,000

Betis Sevilla 1 (Oli 27)
Valencia 0 Att: 35,000

Espanyol 2 (Tamudo 56, Benitez 63)
Oviedo 1 (Dely Valdes 11) Att: 16,200

Real Madrid 1 (Raul 80)
La Coruna 1 (Djalminha 47) Att: 70,000

Valladolid 4 (Roteta og 34, Rodrigo 50, Victor 69, 74)
Malaga 2 (Catanha 7, De Los Santos 62) Att: 9,500

Sunday, September 19

Celta Vigo 0
Rayo Vallecano 1 (Bolo 65) Att: 20,400

Numancia 1 (Pacheta 16)
Athletic Bilbao 1 (Urzaiz 26) Att: 9,500

Racing Santander 2 (Salva pen 24, Munitis 62)
Sevilla 2 (Tsartas 14, Olivera 22) Att: 14,080

Real Sociedad 2 (Idiakez 23, Aldeondo 86)
Mallorca 1 (Diego Tristan 80) Att: 20,000

Zaragoza 1 (Milosevic 18)
Atletico Madrid 1 (Hasselbaink 26) Att: 18,000

Saturday, September 25

Barcelona 4 (Dani 43, 45, 51, Luis Enrique 50)
Betis Sevilla 1 (Karhan 37) Att: 70,000

Malaga 1 (Larrainzar 53)
Real Madrid 1 (Rufete og 45) Att: 37,000

Real Sociedad 0
Celta Vigo 2 (Mostovoi 66, Karpin 90) Att: 21,000

Valencia 0
Valladolid 0 Att: 30,000

Sunday, September 26

Atletico Madrid 2 (Hasselbaink 67, Barraja 87)
Racing Santander 0 Att: 35,000

La Coruna 0
Numancia 2 (Popescu 42, Morales 85) Att: 20,000

Mallorca 2 (Carlos 8, Diego Tristan pen 90)
Athletic Bilbao 1 (J Etxeberria 86) Att: 20,000

Oviedo 1 (Losada 41)
Alaves 0 Att: 10,893

Rayo Vallecano 0
Zaragoza 1 (Milosevic 66) Att: 11,000

Sevilla 1 (Juan Carlos 3)
Espanyol 2 (Galca pen 21, Benitez 70) Att: 35,000

Saturday, October 2

Numancia 1 (Morales 80)
Malaga 1 (Edgar 37) Att: 9,000

Valladolid 0
Barcelona 2 (Kluivert 30, Rivaldo 70)

Sunday, October 3

Alaves 0
Sevilla 0 Att: 16,000

Athletic Bilbao 2 (Jose Mari 62, Ezquerro 65)
La Coruna 3 (Pauleta 11, Flavio Conceicao 37, Victor 57)

Betis Sevilla 1 (Finidi 32)
Oviedo 0

Celta Vigo 1 (Karpin 49)
Mallorca 0 Att: 22,000

Espanyol 3 (Tamudo 42, Benitez 45, Rotchen 59)
Atletico Madrid 1 (Hasselbaink 16) Att: 27,200

Racing Santander 1 (Beschastnykh 85)
Rayo Vallecano 1 (Bolo 79) Att: 14,400

Real Madrid 2 (Morientes 46, 65)
Valencia 3 (Mendieta pen 10, Gerard Lopez 23, Claudio Lopez 38)

Zaragoza 2 (Aragon 61, Milosevic 90)
Real Sociedad 0 Att: 17,000

SPAIN

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Barcelona	6	5	0	1	14	4	15
Rayo Vallecano	6	4	1	1	8	4	13
Celta Vigo	6	4	0	2	7	4	12
Espanyol	6	4	0	2	10	9	12
Zaragoza	6	3	2	1	8	3	11
La Coruna	6	3	2	1	10	6	11
Alaves	6	3	1	2	7	7	10
Real Madrid	6	2	3	1	12	9	9
Malaga	6	2	2	2	9	8	8
Racing Santander	6	2	2	2	8	9	8
Numancia	6	2	2	2	6	9	8
Real Sociedad	6	2	1	3	9	10	7
Valladolid	6	2	1	3	5	7	7
Betis Sevilla	6	2	1	3	3	8	7
Mallorca	6	2	0	4	8	8	6
Oviedo	6	2	0	4	4	9	6
Athletic Bilbao	6	1	2	3	7	9	5
Sevilla	6	0	4	2	6	8	4
Valencia	6	1	1	4	6	10	4
Atletico Madrid	6	1	1	4	6	12	4

SWEDEN

Sep 11: Helsingborgs 5 Trelleborgs 3; IFK Gothenburg 1 AIK 0.
Sep 12: Kalmar 2 Orgryte 2.
Sep 13: Hammarby 1 Vastra Frolunda 2; Djurgardens 1 Elfsborg 2; Norrkoping 5 Malmo 1; Orebro 1 Halmstads 2.
Sep 18: AIK 2 Hammarby 0.
Sep 19: Trelleborgs 2 Djurgardens 2; Vastra Frolunda 2 Kalmar 0; Halmstads 2 Malmo 1.
Sep 20: Helsingborgs 0 Norrkoping 1; Elfsborg 0 IFK Gothenburg 1; Orgryte 1 Orebro 1.
Sep 25: Djurgardens 2 Helsingborgs 4; Kalmar 1 AIK 3.
Sep 26: IFK Gothenburg 2 Trelleborgs 1.
Sep 27: Malmo 1 Orgryte 1; Norrkoping 4 Halmstads 0; Hammarby 2 Elfsborg 1; Orebro 0 Vastra Frolunda 1.
Oct 3: AIK 0 Halmstads 1; Trelleborgs 2 Orebro 1.
Oct 4: IFK Gothenburg 2 Norrkoping 3; Helsingborgs 3 Kalmar 0; Vastra Frolunda 2 Orgryte 1; Hammarby 2 Djurgardens 1; Elfsborg 5 Malmo 2.

SWEDEN

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
AIK	23	14	4	5	36	13	46
Helsingborgs	23	14	3	6	40	24	45
Halmstads	23	13	4	6	40	22	43
Orgryte	23	10	8	5	37	21	38
IFK Gothenburg	23	11	5	7	26	28	38
Norrkoping	23	10	5	8	37	31	35
Vastra Frolunda	23	9	6	8	28	29	33
Trelleborgs	23	7	6	10	36	42	27
Orebro	23	8	3	12	23	30	27
Kalmar	23	8	3	12	27	39	27
Elfsborg	23	7	5	11	37	44	26
Hammarby	23	6	5	12	26	39	23
Malmo	23	6	4	13	27	42	22
Djurgardens	23	4	7	12	24	40	19

SWITZERLAND

Sep 11: Aarau 1 Basle 3; Lausanne 2 Yverdon 2; Servette 2 St Gallen 1; Zurich 2 Neuchatel Xamax 1.
Sep 12: Lucerne 2 Grasshopper 0; Delemont 1 Lugano 0.
Sep 18: Aarau 4 Neuchatel Xamax 1; Basle 1 Lugano 0.
Sep 19: Lucerne 2 St Gallen 2; Servette 1 Delemont 1.
Sep 20: Lausanne 3 Grasshopper 3; Zurich 1 Yverdon 0.
Sep 23: Neuchatel Xamax 1 Basle 2.
Sep 25: St Gallen 2 Lausanne 2; Grasshopper 2 Zurich 1; Lugano 3 Servette 0.
Sep 26: Delemont 0 Lucerne 1; Yverdon 1 Aarau 1.
Oct 1: Lugano 2 Neuchatel Xamax 1.
Oct 2: Basle 1 Yverdon 2.
Oct 3: Aarau 2 Grasshopper 1; Lucerne 2 Servette 4; Zurich 1 St Gallen 3.

SWITZERLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
St Gallen	14	7	5	2	26	17	26
Basle	14	6	6	2	18	10	24
Servette	14	7	2	5	26	23	23
Grasshopper	14	5	5	4	24	19	20
Yverdon	14	5	5	4	20	16	20
Lucerne	14	5	4	5	16	19	19
Lausanne	13	4	6	3	19	16	18
Aarau	14	5	3	6	20	27	18
Lugano	14	4	4	6	19	17	16
Zurich	14	3	5	6	11	19	14
Neuchatel Xamax	14	2	6	6	19	27	12
Delemont	13	3	3	7	15	24	12

TURKEY

Sep 10: Antalyaspor 0 Trabzonspor 2.
Sep 11: Galatasaray 5 Ankaragucu 0.
Sep 12: Samsunspor 2 Adanaspor 1; Erzurum 3 Kocaelispor 3; Bursaspor 0 Gaziantepspor 1; Genclerbirligi 1 Vanspor 1; Fenerbahce 3 Altay 1; Goztepe 2 Istanbulspor 0; Besiktas 1 Denizlispor 1.
Sep 17: Adanaspor 3 Galatasaray 4.
Sep 18: Trabzonspor 2 Bursaspor 0; Genclerbirligi 0 Kocaelispor 4.
Sep 19: Istanbulspor 1 Fenerbahce 4; Vanspor 0 Besiktas 6; Gaziantepspor 2 Goztepe 1; Altay 3 Erzurum 0; Denizlispor 4 Samsunspor 1; Ankaragucu 1 Antalyaspor 3.
Sep 24: Samsunspor 0 Galatasaray 1.
Sep 25: Besiktas 1 Kocaelispor 0.
Sep 26: Genclerbirligi 0 Altay 0; Erzurum 0 Istanbulspor 0; Fenerbahce 0 Gaziantepspor 0; Bursaspor 3 Ankaragucu 1; Denizlispor 1 Vanspor 0; Goztepe 1 Trabzonspor 1; Antalyaspor 2 Adanaspor 2.

TURKEY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Galatasaray	5	4	0	1	13	6	12
Fenerbahce	5	3	2	0	11	3	11
Besiktas	5	3	1	1	12	2	10
Trabzonspor	5	3	1	1	8	4	10
Denizlispor	5	3	1	1	8	5	10
Gaziantepspor	5	3	1	1	6	4	10
Altay	5	2	2	1	8	4	8
Genclerbirligi	5	2	2	1	5	6	8
Istanbulspor	5	2	1	2	5	6	7
Antalyaspor	5	2	1	2	7	9	7
Kocaelispor	5	1	3	1	8	5	6
Goztepe	5	1	3	1	4	3	6
Samsunspor	5	2	0	3	5	10	6
Erzurum	5	1	2	2	5	7	5
Bursaspor	5	1	0	4	4	9	3
Adanaspor	5	0	2	3	7	10	2
Ankaragucu	5	0	1	4	2	13	1
Vanspor	5	0	1	4	1	13	1

UKRAINE

Sep 25: Dynamo 3 Zirka 0; Tavriya 1 Metalurh D 1; Dnipro 1 Chornomorets 1; Kryvbas 2 Karpaty 1; Metalurh Z 2 CSKA 2; Shakhtar 5 Nyva 0; Prykarpattya 3 Metalurh M 0.
Oct 3: Metalurh M 2 Dynamo 3; Metalist 0 Metalurh Z 0; Metalurh D 5 Dnipro 1; Zirka 2 Tavriya 2.

UKRAINE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dynamo	8	7	1	0	19	6	22
Kryvbas	8	7	1	0	17	6	22
Metalurh D	11	5	3	3	15	11	18
Metalurh Z	10	5	3	2	14	10	18
Vorskla	10	5	2	3	19	12	17
Metalist	10	5	2	3	11	10	17
Shakhtar	8	5	1	2	12	2	16
Karpaty	10	5	0	5	18	13	15
Tavriya	11	4	3	4	17	16	15
CSKA	9	3	3	3	12	8	12
Metalurh M	10	4	0	6	18	16	12
Prykarpattya	9	1	4	4	7	11	7
Nyva	9	1	3	5	9	18	6
Dnipro	10	1	3	6	7	23	6
Zirka	11	0	5	6	6	21	5
Chornomorets	10	1	2	7	4	22	5

YUGOSLAVIA

Sep 10: Partizan 1 Proleter 0; Zemun 0 Red Star 4.
Sep 11: Rad 1 Milicionar 1; OFK 0 Sartid 1; Radnicki K 0 Mogren 0; Spartak 0 Obilic 0; Sutjeska 1 Vojvodina 0; Cukaricki 1 Hajduk B 0; Buducnost 2 Borac 0; Radnicki N 1 Hajduk K 0.
Sep 15: Radnicki N 4 Mogren 2.
Sep 18: Proleter 0 Cukaricki 0; Zeleznik 2 Zemun 1; Hajduk K 0 Sutjeska 0; Obilic 2 Radnicki N 1; Mogren 1 Spartak 1; Sartid 1 Radnicki K 2; Milicionar 1 OFK 1; Borac 2 Rad 3; Red Star 3 Buducnost 0.
Sep 19: Vojvodina 2 Partizan 2.
Sep 21: Obilic 2 Sutjeska 1.
Sep 22: Cukaricki 0 Vojvodina 1; Hajduk B 2 Proleter 1; Rad 1 Red Star 1; OFK 1 Borac 4; Partizan 3 Hajduk K 0; Radnicki K 1 Milicionar 0; Spartak 1 Sartid 0; Buducnost 1 Zeleznik 0.
Sep 25: Red Star 3 OFK 1; Borac 0 Radnicki K 1; Milicionar 2 Spartak 0; Sartid 1 Radnicki N 0; Vojvodina 5 Hajduk B 1; Mogren 2 Sutjeska 1; Zeleznik 2 Rad 2; Hajduk K 2 Cukaricki 0; Zemun 2 Buducnost 0; Obilic 3 Partizan 0.
Oct 2: Rad 5 Zemun 1; OFK 1 Zeleznik 1; Radnicki K 1 Red Star 1; Spartak 1 Borac 1; Sutjeska 4 Sartid 1; Cukaricki 1 Obilic 2; Hajduk B 1 Hajduk K 1; Radnicki N 1 Milicionar 0.
Oct 3: Proleter 0 Vojvodina 1; Partizan 2 Mogren 0.

YUGOSLAVIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Obilic	8	6	1	1	15	7	19
Vojvodina	8	5	1	2	13	5	16
Partizan	7	5	1	1	12	7	16
Radnicki K	8	4	2	2	7	7	14
Red Star	7	3	4	0	14	5	13
Rad	8	3	4	1	16	10	13
Zeleznik	7	3	3	1	12	8	12
Sutjeska	8	3	2	3	14	12	11
Hajduk K	8	3	2	3	8	7	11
Proleter	7	3	1	3	9	6	10
Milicionar	8	2	3	3	8	9	9
Radnicki N	8	3	0	5	9	14	9
Spartak	8	2	3	3	4	10	9
Borac	8	2	2	4	15	17	8
Buducnost	7	2	2	3	6	9	8
Sartid	8	2	2	4	7	11	8
Hajduk B	7	2	1	4	12	15	7
Mogren	8	1	4	3	8	13	7
Zemun	7	2	1	4	10	17	7
OFK	8	1	3	4	9	15	6
Cukaricki	7	1	2	4	5	9	5
Pristina	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

SOUTH AMERICA

MERCOSUR CUP

Group A

Aug 26 - Sao Paulo
Palmeiras (Bra) 2 (Roque Junior 45, Alex 54)
Cruzeiro (Bra) 2 (Marcelo Ramos 9, 65)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Cerdeira (Bra)

Sep 1 - Belo Horizonte
Cruzeiro 2 (Muller 9, Cris 64)
Racing Club (Arg) 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Torres (Par)

Sep 2 - Sao Paulo
Palmeiras 3 (Evair 63, Oseas 74, 80)
River Plate (Arg) 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Gamboa (Chl)

Sep 9 - Avellaneda
Racing Club 2 (Estevez 23, Ubeda pen 62)
Palmeiras 4 (Alex 6, Paulo Nunes 25, Zinho 42, Edmilson 82)
HT: 1-3. **Ref:** Troxler (Par)

Sep 15 - Avellaneda
Racing Club 0
Cruzeiro 4 (Paulo Isidoro 34, 59, Andre Luiz 42, Djair 50)
HT: 0-2. **Ref:** Selman (Chl)

Sep 23 - Buenos Aires
River Plate 0
Cruzeiro 3 (Geovanni 18, Marcelo Ramos pen 83, Gustavo 90)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Aquino (Par)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cruzeiro	5	4	1	0	13	2	13
Palmeiras	5	3	2	0	19	7	11
River Plate	5	1	1	3	7	11	4
Racing Club	5	0	0	5	2	21	0

Group B

Aug 24 - Porto Alegre
Gremio (Bra) 1 (Macedo 18)
Velez Sarsfield (Arg) 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Da Rosa (Uru)

Aug 27 - Porto Alegre
Gremio 0
Corinthians (Bra) 0
Ref: Travassos (Bra)

Sep 1 (continued Sept 21) - Buenos Aires
Velez Sarsfield 1 (Camps 62)
Independiente (Arg) 1 (Calderon 65)
Original game suspended at half-time after a smoke bomb injured Velez goalkeeper Jose Chilavert. Second half played behind closed doors on Sept 21.
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Gimenez (Arg).

Sep 16 - Sao Paulo
Corinthians 4 (Fernando Baiano 10, 79, Marcelinho Carioca 38, Luizao 73)
Gremio 1 (Ronaldinho 43)
HT: 2-1. **Ref:** De Souza Mendoza (Bra)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Gremio	5	2	2	1	5	5	8
Corinthians	4	2	1	1	8	3	7
Independiente	4	1	2	1	4	5	5
Velez Sarsfield	5	0	3	2	3	7	3

Group C

Aug 25 - Sao Paulo
Sao Paulo (Bra) 4 (Carlos Miguel 19, Rogerio 35, Franca 59, Marcelinho 76)
San Lorenzo (Arg) 1 (Romero 83)
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Amarilla (Par)

Aug 26 - Buenos Aires
Boca Juniors (Arg) 1 (Palermo 81)
Universidad Catolica (Chl) 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Marcio Rezende (Bra)

Sep 7 - Buenos Aires
San Lorenzo 4 (Pusineri 19, Romeo 39, 77, Estevez 54)
Universidad Catolica 0
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Pereira (Bra)

Sep 9 - Sao Paulo
Sao Paulo 1 (Marcio Santos 38)
Boca Juniors 1 (Cagna 24)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 7,000. **Ref:** Gallesio (Uru)

Sep 22 - Sao Paulo
Sao Paulo 2 (Franca 24, 84)
Universidad Catolica 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 13,000. **Ref:** Feldman (Uru)

Sep 22 - Buenos Aires
Boca Juniors 0
San Lorenzo 1 (Morel Rodriguez 30)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Elizondo (Arg)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sao Paulo	5	3	1	1	11	7	10
San Lorenzo	5	3	0	2	7	5	9
Boca Juniors	5	2	1	2	7	4	7
U Catolica	5	1	0	4	1	10	3

Group D

Aug 24 - Asuncion
Cerro Porteno (Par) 1 (Sara 74)
Vasco da Gama (Bra) 1 (Donizete 89)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Sanchez (Arg)

Aug 25 - Montevideo
Penarol (Uru) 0
Nacional (Uru) 0
Att: 40,000. **Ref:** D.Bello (Uru)

Aug 31 - Rio de Janeiro
Vasco da Gama 1 (Gilberto 55)
Penarol 1 (Cedres 85)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Sequeira (Arg)

Sep 7 - Montevideo
Nacional 3 (Milton Nunez 4, 16, 65)
Vasco da Gama 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 7,000. **Ref:** Sanchez (Chl)

Sep 15 - Montevideo
Penarol 3 (Pandiani 76, 89, Bengoechea pen 81)
Cerro Porteno 2 (Gauchinho 60, Peralta 75)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Rezende (Bra)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Penarol	5	2	3	0	8	6	9
Nacional	4	2	1	1	6	2	7
Vasco da Gama	5	1	2	2	4	7	5
Cerro Porteno	4	0	2	2	6	9	2

Group E

Aug 26 - Santiago
Universidad de Chile 2 (Guzman 61, Rey 74)
Flamengo (Bra) 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Sequeria (Arg)

Sep 8 - Asuncion
Olimpia (Par) 3 (Esteche 33, Franco 41, Yegros 86)
Flamengo 1 (Leonardo 13)
HT: 2-1. **Ref:** Da Rosa (Uru)

Sep 9 - Santiago
Colo Colo (Chl) 0
Universidad de Chile 0
Att: 30,000. **Ref:** Arenas (Chl)

Sep 15 - Santiago
Universidad de Chile 1 (Maestri 18)
Olimpia 2 (Baez 21, Avalos 30)
HT: 1-2. **Ref:** Jimenez (Arg)

Sep 21 - Rio de Janeiro
Flamengo 2 (Caio 19, Marco Antonio 39)
Colo Colo 2 (Munoz 77, Vergara 85)
HT: 2-0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Olimpia	5	3	0	2	8	6	9
Colo Colo	5	2	2	1	5	6	8
Flamengo	5	2	1	2	9	8	7
U de Chile	5	1	1	3	4	6	4

Group winners and three second-placed teams with best records qualify for quarter-finals

MERCONORTE CUP

Group A

Sep 8 - Lima
Universitario (Per) 2 (Maldonado 58, Farfan 61)
Atletico Nacional (Col) 2 (Vilarete 39, Palacios 90)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 4,000. **Ref:** Luna (Bol)

Sep 9 - Cali
America (Col) 3
El Nacional (Ecu) 1
Ref: Ibarra (Ven)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
America	3	3	0	0	8	4	9
Nacional	3	1	1	1	8	5	4
El Nacional	3	1	0	2	5	8	3
Universitario	3	0	1	2	4	8	1

Group B

Aug 25 - Bogota
Millonarios (Col) 0
Alianza Lima (Per) 1 (Salazar 24)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** B.Moreno (Ecu)

Aug 26 - Guayaquil
Barcelona (Ecu) 4 (Guerrero 17, Mora 44, Espinoza 61, Palacios 75)
The Strongest (Ecu) 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 1,500. **Ref:** Arana (Per)

Sep 15 - Guayaquil
Barcelona 1 (Matamba 55)
Millonarios 1 (Tilger 47)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Ortube (Bol)

Sep 16 - La Paz
The Strongest 3 (Alvaro Pena 14, Coelho 29, 90)
Alianza Lima 2 (Dos Santos 8, Quinteros 52)
HT: 2-1. **Ref:** Zambrano (Ecu)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Alianza Lima	3	2	0	1	4	3	6
Barcelona	3	1	1	1	5	2	4
Millonarios	3	1	1	1	3	2	4
The Strongest	3	1	0	2	3	8	3

Group C

Sep 1 - Bogota
Independiente Santa Fe (Col) 3 (Velasquez 63, Milton Rodriguez 89, Reino 90)
Caracas FC (Ven) 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 4,000

Sep 2 - Guayaquil
Emelec (Ecu) 5 (Tenorio, Garcia (2), Ramos, Saso)
Sporting Cristal (Per) 3 (Holsen, Charun, Sanchez)
HT: 1-1

Sep 22 - Caracas
Caracas FC 3 (J.Garcia 62, Vera 74, Alvarez 83)
Sporting Cristal 1 (Ferrari 67)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 5,000. **Ref:** Carpio

Sep 23 - Bogota
Independiente Santa Fe 2 (Cano 39, Milton Rodriguez 53)
Emelec 0
HT: 1-0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Indep Santa Fe	3	2	1	0	6	1	7
Caracas FC	3	2	0	1	5	5	6
Emelec	3	1	0	2	6	7	3
Sporting Cristal	3	0	1	2	5	9	1

ARGENTINA

OPENING CHAMPIONSHIP

August 27-30

Belgrano Cordoba 1 (Montenegro 64)
Gimnasia J 0

Boca Juniors 2 (Barros Schelotto 28, 30)
Chacarita Juniors 0

Colon Santa Fe 2 (H Diaz pen 42, pen 55)
Newell's Old Boys 0

Estudiantes 1 (Romagnoli 78)
River Plate 4 (Saviola 57, 62, Aimar 70, Angel 79)

Ferro Carril Oeste 1 (Gorocito 41)
Racing Club 1 (Estevez 36)

Independiente 0
Velez Sarsfield 0

Instituto Cordoba 1 (Corti 56)
Gimnasia LP 1 (Sava 59)

Lanus 2 (Vilallonga pen 56, 76)
Argentinos Juniors 0

Rosario Central 3 (Pizzi 58, 81, Maceratesi 67)
Union Santa Fe 0

San Lorenzo 1 (Romeo 49)
Talleres Cordoba 0

September 3-6

Argentinos Juniors 1 (Plaza 58)
Boca Juniors 1 (Palermo 45)

Chacarita Juniors 4 (Schiavi pen 47, pen 79, Parisi 53, Carrario 81)
Ferro Carril Oeste 1 (S Rodriguez 11)

Gimnasia J 1 (Balvorin 53)
Independiente 4 (Gonzalez og 5, Cambiasso 35, Marioni 52, Graf 88)

Gimnasia LP 1 (F Fernandez 12)
Rosario Central 2 (Cuberas 42, E Gonzalez 85)

Newell's Old Boys 4 (Fuentes 5, Gamboa 24, Real 35, Manso 81)
Estudiantes 1 (Farias 17)

Racing Club 1 (Chatruc 22)
San Lorenzo 1 (Franco 79)

River Plate 4 (Saviola 9, 28, Angel 53, 88)
Belgrano Cordoba 3 (Montenegro 18, 89, Villarreal 24)

Talleres Cordoba 2 (Gigena pen 71, Astudillo 90)
Instituto Cordoba 2 (Maldonado 17, pen 64)

Union Santa Fe 2 (Trullet 59, Silvera 75)
Colon Santa Fe 0

Velez Sarsfield 1 (Mendez 14)
Lanus 0

September 10-13

Argentinos Juniors 0
Velez Sarsfield 2 (Chilavert 61, Camps 90)

Belgrano Cordoba 0
Newell's Old Boys 0

Boca Juniors 2 (Cagna 56, Palermo 70)
Ferro Carril Oeste 0

Colon Santa Fe 1 (Sand 56)
Gimnasia LP 1 (Alonso 85)

Estudiantes 2 (Farias 39, Quatrocchi pen 62)
Union Santa Fe 0

Independiente 1 (Marioni 41)
River Plate 1 (Aimar 16)

Instituto Cordoba 0
Racing Club 1 (Monserrat 65)

Lanus 2 (Klimowicz 14, Vilallonga pen 56)
Gimnasia J 0

Rosario Central 0
Talleres Cordoba 1 (Astudillo 59)

San Lorenzo 3 (Romagnoli 17, Romeo 30, A Gonzalez 65)
Chacarita Juniors 1 (R Capria 24)

September 17-20

Chacarita Juniors 2 (Parisi 8, D Capria 90)
Instituto Cordoba 2 (Rimoldi 39, Jimenez 65)

Ferro Carril Oeste 0
San Lorenzo 0

Gimnasia J 1 (Lobo 14)
Argentinos Juniors 1 (Bennett 56)

Gimnasia LP 0
Estudiantes 0

Newell's Old Boys 0
Independiente 0

Racing Club 2 (Lux 30, Delgado 64)
Rosario Central 1 (Maceratesi 2)

River Plate 3 (Sorin 20, Aimar 34, Yepes 85)
Lanus 1 (Klimowicz 90)

Talleres Cordoba 2 (Suarez 15, Gigena 57)
Colon Santa Fe 0

Union Santa Fe 1 (Cabrol pen 7)
Belgrano Cordoba 3 (Lujambio 55, 77, Solana 90)

Velez Sarsfield 3 (Bardaro 2, 15, Dominguez 87)
Boca Juniors 1 (Bermudez 23)

September 22

Gimnasia LP 0
Chacarita Juniors 0

ARGENTINA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
River Plate	7	5	2	0	20	10	17
San Lorenzo	7	5	2	0	12	5	17
Boca Juniors	7	4	2	1	14	6	14
Velez Sarsfield	7	4	2	1	11	5	14
Talleres Cordoba	6	3	2	1	8	4	11
Racing Club	7	2	5	0	9	7	11
Rosario Central	7	3	1	3	10	8	10
Lanus	7	3	1	3	8	9	10
Colon Santa Fe	7	2	3	2	7	7	9
Belgrano Cordoba	7	2	3	2	7	8	9
Newell's Old Boys	7	1	4	2	7	7	7
Gimnasia LP	7	1	4	2	7	7	7
Independiente	7	1	4	2	8	9	7
Argentinos Jun.	7	1	4	2	7	8	7
Instituto Cordoba	7	1	4	2	9	11	7
Estudiantes	7	2	1	4	9	15	7
Chacarita Juniors	6	1	3	2	9	10	6
Union Santa Fe	7	2	0	5	7	13	6
Gimnasia J	7	1	1	5	5	13	4
Ferro Carril Oeste	7	0	2	5	3	15	2

BOLIVIA

CLOSING CHAMPIONSHIP

Aug 28: Independiente 2 Santa Cruz 1.
Aug 29: Guabira 0 Real Potosi 2; Oriente 0 Bolivar 0; The Strongest 3 Blooming 2; Union Central 4 San Jose 0; Jorge Wilstermann 8 Destroyers 0.
Sep 4: Destroyers 1 The Strongest 3; San Jose 0 Oriente 1.
Sep 5: Bolivar 3 Independiente 0; Real Potosi 1 Jorge Wilstermann 2; Santa Cruz 1 Union Central 2.
Sep 6: Blooming 0 Guabira 0.
Sep 11: Bolivar 2 Santa Cruz 0.
Sep 12: Blooming 7 Real Potosi 2; San Jose 1 Independiente 1; Union Central 1 Oriente 0; Jorge Wilstermann 1 The Strongest 2.
Sep 13: Destroyers 2 Guabira 0.
Sep 18: Blooming 3 Destroyers 3.
Sep 19: Bolivar 2 San Jose 1; Guabira 3 Jorge Wilstermann 1; Independiente 2 Union Central 2; Santa Cruz 1 Oriente 1.
Sep 20: Real Potosi 1 The Strongest 2.
Sep 25: The Strongest 2 Guabira 1.
Sep 26: Destroyers 1 Real Potosi 3; San Jose 3 Santa Cruz 0; Union Central 2 Bolivar 0; Jorge Wilstermann 1 Blooming 1.
Sep 27: Oriente 0 Independiente 1.
Oct 2: Jorge Wilstermann 2 San Jose 0.
Oct 3: Blooming 1 Oriente 1; Bolivar 2 The Strongest 1; Guabira 0 Santa Cruz 1; Independiente 3 Real Potosi 1.

GROUP A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
The Strongest	10	6	1	3	19	14	19
Real Potosi	10	6	0	4	17	17	18
Blooming	10	3	5	2	20	13	14
J Wilstermann	10	4	1	5	22	17	13
Guabira	10	3	1	6	10	13	10
Destroyers	9	1	1	7	10	30	4

GROUP B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Independiente	10	6	2	2	19	10	20
Bolivar	10	6	2	2	17	8	20
Union Central	9	5	1	3	17	13	16
Santa Cruz	10	3	3	4	7	11	13
Oriente	10	3	4	3	6	10	13
San Jose	10	2	1	7	10	18	7

BRAZIL

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Aug 25: Juventude 1 Corinthians 3; Vitoria 2 Botafogo RJ 0; Botafogo SP 0 Ponte Preta 1; Atletico PR 1 Internacional 2.
Aug 28: Ponte Preta 1 Palmeiras 2; Santos 1 Vasco da Gama 1; Atletico MG 4 Coritiba 1; Gama 2 Cruzeiro 3.
Aug 29: Flamengo 3 Gremio 4; Botafogo SP 1 Sport Recife 1; Corinthians 1 Sao Paulo 0; Portuguesa 2 Atletico PR 0; Parana 2 Guarani 1; Internacional 0 Juventude 0.
Sep 1: Gremio 3 Botafogo SP 4; Guarani 2 Sao Paulo 3; Corinthians 1 Flamengo 2.
Sep 2: Atletico PR 1 Gama 0.
Sep 4: Sport Recife 1 Santos 0; Botafogo SP 1 Flamengo 4; Botafogo RJ 2 Internacional 3.
Sep 5: Vasco da Gama 1 Atletico MG 0; Portuguesa 1 Vitoria 3; Palmeiras 2 Cruzeiro 2; Juventude 1 Ponte Preta 2; Parana 1 Coritiba 1.
Sep 8: Cruzeiro 1 Corinthians 3; Botafogo SP 1 Atletico MG 4; Vitoria 1 Gama 0; Internacional 1 Portuguesa 0.
Sep 11: Santos 2 Botafogo SP 0; Gama 1 Flamengo 1; Sao Paulo 2 Coritiba 1; Vasco da Gama 3 Ponte Preta 1.
Sep 12: Botafogo RJ 0 Atletico PR 1; Juventude 2 Vitoria 1; Sport Recife 3 Guarani 2; Corinthians 1 Palmeiras 4; Gremio 1 Internacional 0.
Sep 15: Flamengo 1 Sao Paulo 0; Guarani 1 Vasco da Gama 0; Atletico MG 1 Vitoria 2; Juventude 1 Botafogo SP 1; Palmeiras 1 Sport Recife 0; Portuguesa 1 Santos 2; Atletico PR 1 Parana 1.
Sep 16: Ponte Preta 2 Coritiba 0.
Sep 18: Santos 0 Botafogo RJ 1; Portuguesa 1 Gremio 1; Atletico PR 2 Atletico MG 2.
Sep 19: Sao Paulo 2 Juventude 0; Coritiba 0 Guarani 3; Internacional 0 Gama 1.
Sep 22: Gama 2 Gremio 1; Parana 0 Palmeiras 1; Corinthians 2 Vasco da Gama 4; Botafogo RJ 0 Juventude 1.
Sep 25: Sport Recife 0 Corinthians 0; Coritiba 3 Botafogo RJ 2; Sao Paulo 1 Gama 2; Ponte Preta 2 Cruzeiro 2.
Sep 26: Flamengo 5 Vitoria 2; Vasco da Gama 2 Internacional 0; Palmeiras 1 Santos 1; Atletico MG 2 Portuguesa 2; Botafogo SP 2 Parana 0; Gremio 2 Guarani 3; Juventude 1 Atletico PR 3.
Sep 29: Vasco da Gama 1 Sao Paulo 2; Atletico MG 3 Flamengo 0; Gama 0 Juventude 0; Vitoria 4 Cruzeiro 1; Sport Recife 0 Internacional 0; Palmeiras 3 Portuguesa 2; Santos 1 Coritiba 1; Atletico PR 1 Ponte Preta 0; Gremio 1 Parana 1.
Sep 30: Botafogo RJ 1 Botafogo SP 0.

Oct 2: Internacional 1 Santos 2; Guarani 1 Atletico PR 2; Portuguesa 0 Corinthians 1.
Oct 3: Flamengo 0 Vasco da Gama 1; Ponte Preta 2 Sport Recife 0; Sao Paulo 0 Palmeiras 0; Coritiba 4 Gremio 0; Cruzeiro 3 Atletico MG 0.

BRAZIL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Corinthians	13	9	1	3	31	18	28
Sao Paulo	15	8	1	6	30	17	25
Flamengo	14	8	1	5	24	19	25
Cruzeiro	13	7	4	2	26	19	25
Vasco da Gama	12	7	3	2	18	9	24
Atletico PR	14	7	3	4	22	18	24
Palmeiras	14	6	5	3	21	17	23
Guarani	14	7	1	6	19	17	22
Ponte Preta	14	6	4	4	15	11	22
Atletico MG	14	6	3	5	27	20	21
Vitoria	14	6	2	6	19	23	20
Santos	14	5	5	4	15	14	20
Gama	14	5	3	6	15	16	18
Coritiba	14	4	5	5	19	20	17
Gremio	14	4	4	6	18	26	16
Sport Recife	14	3	6	5	7	10	15
Internacional	14	4	2	8	11	18	14
Parana	11	3	4	4	9	12	13
Botafogo SP	15	3	4	8	18	29	13
Portuguesa	13	3	3	7	14	19	12
Juventude	14	2	6	6	11	19	12
Botafogo RJ	14	2	2	10	13	32	8

CHILE

Aug 28: Palestino 0 Santiago Morning 3; Dep Iquique 1 U de Chile 2; Rangers 0 O'Higgins 2; Puerto Montt 4 Cobreloa 1; Dep La Serena 1 Cobresal 0.
Aug 29: Audax Italiano 2 Dep Concepcion 1; Huachipato 4 Coquimbo Unido 2; Colo Colo 0 U Catolica 2.
Sep 1: Palestino 3 Rangers 1; Cobreloa 3 Huachipato 0; Cobresal 1 Dep Iquique 1; O'Higgins 5 Audax Italiano 3; U Catolica 1 U de Chile 1; Colo Colo 3 Puerto Montt 2; Coquimbo Unido 0 Santiago Morning 0; Dep Concepcion 2 Dep La Serena 0.
Sep 4: Huachipato 2 Colo Colo 0; Puerto Montt 2 U Catolica 0.
Sep 5: Santiago Morning 0 Cobreloa 1; Dep La Serena 0 O'Higgins 4; Audax Italiano 3 Palestino 1; U de Chile 2 Cobresal 0; Dep Iquique 2 Dep Concepcion 0.
Sep 11: Coquimbo Unido 0 Audax Italiano 1; U Catolica 4 Cobresal 1.
Sep 12: Dep Concepcion 1 U de Chile 1; Cobreloa 2 Rangers 0.
Sep 17: Dep Iquique 1 Palestino 2.
Sep 18: Dep La Serena 2 Coquimbo Unido 2; Audax Italiano 1 Cobreloa 0; Huachipato 2 U Catolica 4.
Sep 19: Cobresal 1 Dep Concepcion 0; Santiago Morning 2 Puerto Montt 2; Rangers 1 Colo Colo 1.
Sep 20: U de Chile 5 O'Higgins 4.
Sep 22: Palestino 0 Dep La Serena 0.
Sep 25: Colo Colo 3 Audax Italiano 1; O'Higgins 1 Cobresal 0; Coquimbo Unido 1 Dep Iquique 0; Puerto Montt 2 Rangers 1; Huachipato 3 Santiago Morning 3.
Sep 26: U Catolica 1 Dep Concepcion 1; Palestino 0 U de Chile 5; Cobreloa 3 Dep La Serena 0.
Sep 28: O'Higgins 3 Dep Iquique 2.
Sep 29: Colo Colo 3 Santiago Morning 3; Puerto Montt 2 Huachipato 0; Rangers 2 Coquimbo Unido 1.
Oct 2: Dep La Serena 1 Colo Colo 1; Dep Concepcion 0 O'Higgins 1; Audax Italiano 6 Puerto Montt 1; Cobresal 0 Palestino 0.
Oct 3: U de Chile 2 Coquimbo Unido 1; Santiago Morning 0 U Catolica 1; Rangers 1 Huachipato 0; Dep Iquique 1 Cobreloa 4.

CHILE – REGULAR SEASON FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
U de Chile	30	23	6	1	66	27	75
U Catolica	30	19	7	4	67	31	64
Cobreloa	30	16	8	6	62	29	56
Colo Colo	30	13	10	7	45	37	49
Audax Italiano	30	11	8	11	42	37	41
Huachipato	30	11	8	11	46	47	41
Palestino	30	11	6	13	48	53	39
Santiago Morning	30	10	8	12	41	41	38
Puerto Montt	30	10	8	12	52	55	38
O'Higgins	30	11	5	14	47	59	38
Dep Concepcion	30	9	8	13	38	41	35
Cobresal	30	9	8	13	39	45	35
Dep Iquique	30	8	8	14	37	47	32
Coquimbo Unido	30	6	10	14	44	70	28
Rangers	30	6	6	18	26	52	24
Dep La Serena	30	4	12	14	30	59	24

Top eight go into championship play-off; bottom eight go into relegation play-off

COLOMBIA

CLOSING CHAMPIONSHIP

Aug 29: At Junior 2 Quindio 1; America 2 Dep Pasto 0; At Huila 2 Indep Medellin 2; Tulua 1 Union Santa Marta 1; Tolima 1 Bucaramanga 0; At Nacional 1 Millonarios 1; Indep Santa Fe 3 Dep Cali 2; Envigado 0 Once Caldas 1.
Sep 5: Indep Santa Fe 0 Millonarios 0; Dep Cali 1 Quindio 1; Tolima 0 Bucaramanga 1; Tulua 2 America 2; Union Santa Marta 0 Nacional 1; Dep Pasto 4 At Huila 0; Envigado 1 Once Caldas 1; Indep Medellin 3 At Junior 1.
Sep 12: Millonarios 1 Indep Medellin 0; At Huila 0 Tulua 1; America 2 Envigado 1; Once Caldas 3 Dep Cali 0; Quindio 1 Tolima 3; Bucaramanga 1 Union Santa Marta 0; Nacional 1 Indep Santa Fe 1; At Junior 2 Dep Pasto 1.
Sep 15: Dep Cali 2 Nacional 3; Envigado 2 Bucaramanga 1; Millonarios 1 Union Santa Marta 1; Tulua 2 Quindio 0; At Junior 2 At Huila 2; Dep Pasto 2 Once Caldas 2; Indep Medellin 1 America 1; Tolima 2 Indep Santa Fe 1.
Sep 19: At Nacional 2 Envigado 0; Once Caldas 4 Indep Medellin 1; America 2 At Junior 0; Bucaramanga 0 Tulua 0; Quindio 3 Dep Pasto 0; Santa Fe 1 Dep Cali 2; Union Santa Marta 1 Tolima 0; At Huila 0 Millonarios 1.
Sep 26: Millonarios 2 Tolima 1; Tulua 1 At Nacional 0; At Junior 2 Once Caldas 0; America 0 At Huila 1; Dep Pasto 1 Bucaramanga 0; Indep Medellin 2 Quindio 1; Dep Cali 0 Union Santa Marta 0; Envigado 2 Indep Santa Fe 1.
Oct 3: At Nacional 2 Dep Pasto 1; Indep Santa Fe 1 Tulua 1; Quindio 2 At Junior 3; America 1 Millonarios 1; Union Santa Marta 1 Envigado 0; Tolima 1 Dep Cali 0; Bucaramanga 2 Indep Medellin 1; Once Caldas 3 At Huila 1.

COLOMBIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
At Junior	12	7	2	3	16	13	23
Millonarios	12	5	7	0	14	7	22
Tulua	12	5	7	0	14	8	22
At Nacional	12	6	3	3	17	12	21
Once Caldas	12	5	5	2	21	12	20
America	12	5	5	2	18	11	20
Dep Pasto	12	6	1	5	18	16	19
Indep Medellin	12	5	2	5	18	18	17
Tolima	12	5	1	6	13	13	16
Bucaramanga	12	4	3	5	11	11	15
Envigado	12	4	3	5	12	17	15
Quindio	12	3	3	6	17	21	12
Dep Cali	12	2	5	5	12	16	11
Union Santa Marta	12	2	4	6	8	15	10
Indep Santa Fe	12	1	7	4	13	16	10
At Huila	12	1	4	7	11	24	7

ECUADOR

CLOSING CHAMPIONSHIP

Aug 27: LDU 4 Espoli 1.
Aug 28: Barcelona 3 Dep Quito 1; El Nacional 4 Delfin 1.
Aug 29: Aucas 7 Emelec 0; Olmedo 2 Dep Cuenca 2; Audaz Octubrino 2 Macara 0.
Sep 3: Dep Cuenca 1 LDU 0.
Sep 4: Espoli 2 Aucas 1.
Sep 5: Emelec 1 Olmedo 0; El Nacional 1 Barcelona 1; Macara 2 Dep Quito 1; Delfin 2 Audaz Octubrino 1.
Sep 7: Audaz Octubrino 1 El Nacional 0.
Sep 8: Barcelona 3 Macara 0; Dep Quito 3 Delfin 0; LDU 2 Emelec 1; Dep Cuenca 0 Espoli 2; Olmedo 1 Aucas 0.
Sep 12: Emelec 4 Dep Cuenca 1; El Nacional 2 Dep Quito 2; Aucas 0 LDU 0; Espoli 3 Olmedo 1; Audaz Octubrino 1 Barcelona 0; Delfin 2 Macara 1.
Sep 17: Dep Cuenca 3 Emelec 0; LDU 1 Aucas 0.
Sep 19: Dep Quito 3 El Nacional 0; Olmedo 2 Espoli 0; Barcelona 3 Audaz Octubrino 0; Macara 2 Delfin 1.
Sep 21: Emelec 3 LDU 2.
Sep 22: Macara 4 Barcelona 1; Delfin 0 Dep Quito 1; Espoli 1 Dep Cuenca 0; El Nacional 4 Audaz Octubrino 0; Aucas 3 Olmedo 1.
Sep 26: LDU 1 Dep Cuenca 0; Aucas 0 Espoli 1; Olmedo 1 Emelec 2; Barcelona 1 El Nacional 2; Dep Quito 2 Macara 0; Audaz Octubrino 6 Delfin 1.
Oct 1: Dep Cuenca 1 Olmedo 2.
Oct 3: Espoli 1 LDU 0; Dep Quito 2 Barcelona 0; Delfin 3 El Nacional 1; Emelec 3 Aucas 0; Macara 3 Audaz Octubrino 0.

GROUP 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dep Quito	9	6	1	2	19	8	19
Macara	9	5	0	4	15	13	15
Audaz Octubrino	9	4	0	5	12	17	12
Delfin	9	4	0	5	13	19	12
El Nacional	9	3	2	4	15	15	11
Barcelona	9	3	1	5	12	14	10

GROUP 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Espoli	9	7	0	2	13	9	21
LDU	9	5	1	3	11	7	16
Emelec	9	5	0	4	15	18	15
Olmedo	9	3	1	5	10	13	10
Aucas	9	2	2	5	11	9	8
Dep Cuenca	9	2	2	5	8	12	8

PARAGUAY

CLOSING CHAMPIONSHIP

Aug 29: Cerro Cora 1 12 de Octubre 1; Colegiales 2 Guarani 2; Sportivo Luqueno 3 Sol de America 1; San Lorenzo 1 Cerro Porteno 0; Olimpia 2 Resistencia 0.
Sep 5: Cerro Porteno 4 Cerro Cora 1; 12 de Octubre 2 Colegiales 0; Presidente Hayes 2 Resistencia 0; Guarani 0 Sportivo Luqueno 3; San Lorenzo 1 Olimpia 1.
Sep 12: Olimpia 3 Cerro Cora 0; San Lorenzo 0 Presidente Hayes 0; Sportivo Luqueno 3 12 de Octubre 5; Sol de America 0 Guarani 1; Colegiales 0 Cerro Porteno 1.
Sep 19: Resistencia 1 Guarani 2; San Lorenzo 2 Sol de America 1; Presidente Hayes 1 12 de Octubre 1; Sportivo Luqueno 2 Cerro Cora 1; Olimpia 0 Cerro Porteno 3.
Sep 26: Sol de America 0 Cerro Porteno 3; Sportivo Luqueno 1 Olimpia 1; Cerro Cora 2 Resistencia 0; Colegiales 3 Presidente Hayes 0; Guarani 2 12 de Octubre 2.
Oct 1: Sol de America 0 Olimpia 1.
Oct 3: Cerro Porteno 3 Guarani 2; Presidente Hayes 0 Sportivo Luqueno 0; San Lorenzo 1 Cerro Cora 0; Resistencia 2 Colegiales 0.

PARAGUAY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cerro Porteno	10	7	1	2	25	8	22
Sportivo Luqueno	10	5	3	2	22	14	18
Olimpia	10	4	5	1	13	9	17
12 de Octubre	10	3	7	0	16	10	16
San Lorenzo	10	3	7	0	11	8	16
Guarani	10	2	6	2	13	15	12
Presidente Hayes	10	2	6	2	6	8	12
Colegiales	10	2	3	5	9	12	9
Cerro Cora	10	2	3	5	10	16	9
Sol de America	10	1	3	6	5	13	6
Resistencia	10	1	2	7	4	21	5

PERU

CLOSING CHAMPIONSHIP

Aug 28-29: Alianza Lima 1 Melgar 0; Sport Boys 2 Juan Aurich 0; Sporting Cristal 3 Alianza Atletico 2; Union Minas 1 Cienciano 1; IMI Talara 0 Dep Municipal 0; Dep Pesquero 2 Universitario 2.
Sep 4-5: Sporting Cristal 4 IMI Talara 0; Universitario 2 Cienciano 2; Melgar 5 Dep Pesquero 2; Union Minas 3 Sport Boys 0; Juan Aurich 0 Alianza Lima 1; Alianza Atletico 5 Dep Municipal 0.
Sep 11-12: Alianza Lima 0 Universitario 0; Sport Boys 2 Melgar 0; Dep Municipal 0 Juan Aurich 1; Cienciano 0 Alianza Atletico 0; Dep Pesquero 1 Sporting Cristal 1; IMI Talara 4 Union Minas 3.
Sep 15: Melgar 2 IMI Talara 0; Sport Boys 1 Dep Pesquero 0; Sporting Cristal 5 Union Minas 1; Cienciano 2 Dep Municipal 0; Alianza Atletico 1 Alianza Lima 2; Juan Aurich 0 Universitario 1.
Sep 18-19: Alianza Lima 4 Dep Municipal 0; Sporting Cristal 2 Sport Boys 1; Universitario 2 Alianza Atletico 0; Union Minas 1 Melgar 1; Juan Aurich 3 Cienciano 0; IMI Talara 1 Dep Pesquero 1.
Sep 25-26: Dep Municipal 0 Universitario 1; Sport Boys 2 IMI Talara 0; Melgar 1 Sporting Cristal 1; Alianza Atletico 2 Juan Aurich 0; Cienciano 2 Alianza Lima 1; Dep Pesquero 1 Union Minas 0.
Oct 2-3: IMI Talara 1 Alianza Lima 1; Dep Pesquero 0 Dep Municipal 1; Union Minas 3 Universitario 0; Sport Boys 2 Cienciano 1; Sporting Cristal 2 Juan Aurich 1; Melgar 2 Alianza Atletico 0.

PERU

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Alianza Lima	12	8	2	2	28	8	26
Sport Boys	12	8	2	2	17	10	26
Sporting Cristal	12	6	3	3	28	15	21
Universitario	12	6	3	3	18	12	21
Melgar	12	6	2	4	21	12	20
Alianza Atletico	12	5	3	4	20	12	18
Cienciano	12	4	6	2	14	12	18
Juan Aurich	12	4	2	6	12	15	14
Union Minas	12	3	4	5	23	24	13
Dep Pesquero	12	1	5	6	8	22	8
IMI Talara	12	1	4	7	8	28	7
Dep Municipal	12	1	2	9	5	32	5

URUGUAY

CLOSING CHAMPIONSHIP

Aug 27: Huracan Buceo 1 Defensor 0.
Aug 28: Nacional 4 Cerro 2.
Aug 29: Penarol 6 Bella Vista P 1; Bella Vista M 1 Tacuarembo 1; River Plate 2 Frontera Rivera 3; Danubio 2 Rentistas 0; Dep Maldonado 3 Rampla Juniors 0.
Sep 3: Frontera Rivera 2 Rentistas 2.
Sep 4: Penarol 5 Dep Maldonado 1.
Sep 7: Cerro 1 Tacuarembo 0; Liverpool 0 Defensor 0; Rampla Juniors 2 Bella Vista P 1; River Plate 1 Danubio 3.
Sep 10: Bella Vista P 1 Frontera Rivera 0.
Sep 11: Liverpool 1 Nacional 2; Bella Vista M 0 Defensor 0.
Sep 12: Rampla 1 Rentistas 0; Danubio 1 Dep Maldonado 1; Huracan Buceo 2 Tacuarembo 1; River Plate 1 Penarol 6.
Sep 14: Bella Vista M 1 Nacional 4.
Sep 17: Dep Maldonado 1 Liverpool 1.
Sep 18: Penarol 4 Defensor 0; Bella Vista P 0 Huracan Buceo 0; Rentistas 0 Cerro 1.
Sep 19: Danubio 1 Nacional 1; Frontera Rivera 2 Tacuarembo 1; River Plate 3 Bella Vista M 0.
Sep 21: Cerro 2 Rampla Juniors 4.
Sep 22: Tacuarembo 1 Dep Maldonado 1; Huracan Buceo 2 Frontera Rivera 1; Bella Vista M 1 Danubio 1; Nacional 4 Bella Vista P 0.
Sep 23: Defensor 3 Rentistas 1; Liverpool 1 Penarol 1.
Sep 24: Bella Vista P 3 Bella Vista M 4.
Sep 25: Frontera Rivera 2 Nacional 3.
Sep 26: Penarol 2 Tacuarembo 1; Dep Maldonado 0 Huracan Buceo 3; River Plate 2 Cerro 0; Rampla Juniors 1 Defensor 3; Rentistas 0 Liverpool 0.
Oct 1: Cerro 1 Danubio 2.
Oct 2: Nacional 1 Dep Maldonado 0.
Oct 3: Huracan Buceo 1 Penarol 3; Tacuarembo 0 Rentistas 0; Defensor 0 River Plate 1; Bella Vista M 2 Frontera Rivera 0; Liverpool 3 Rampla Juniors 0.

URUGUAY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Penarol	11	10	1	0	43	11	31
Nacional	11	8	1	2	25	13	25
Danubio	11	6	3	2	19	13	21
Defensor	11	6	2	3	13	10	20
Liverpool	11	5	4	2	14	6	19
Bella Vista M	11	5	3	3	17	15	18
Huracan Buceo	11	5	3	3	12	12	18
River Plate	11	5	2	4	17	16	17
Frontera Rivera	12	4	1	7	19	19	13
Cerro	11	4	1	6	11	15	13
Dep Maldonado	12	3	4	5	13	22	13
Bella Vista P	11	2	4	5	12	23	10
Rampla Juniors	11	3	0	8	14	28	9
Rentistas	12	0	4	8	7	23	4
Tacuarembo	11	0	3	8	6	16	3

VENEZUELA

OPENING CHAMPIONSHIP

Aug 29: Ital-Chacao 0 Carabobo 0; Trujillanos 0 Caracas 1; Estudiantes 2 Zulianos 2; Nacional 1 Mineros Guayana 1; Llaneros 0 Union Tachira 1; Inter El Vigia 1 FCU-ULA 1.
Sep 1: Union Tachira 0 Ital-Chacao 0; Trujillanos 3 Estudiantes 1; Mineros Guayana 1 Llaneros 0; Carabobo 0 Zulianos 0; FCU-ULA 1 Nacional 1.
Sep 5: Ital-Chacao 1 Mineros Guayana 2; Nacional 1 Caracas 1; Inter El Vigia 2 Trujillanos 4; Estudiantes 1 Carabobo 1; Zulianos 0 Union Tachira 1; Llaneros 2 FCU-ULA 2.
Sep 12: Caracas 1 Llaneros 1; Inter El Vigia 0 Estudiantes 2; FCU-ULA 2 Ital-Chacao 4; Trujillanos 1 Nacional 0; Mineros Guayana 1 Zulianos 1; Union Tachira 4 Carabobo 1.

Sep 15: Caracas 2 Zulianos 1.
Sep 17: Estudiantes 1 Union Tachira 2; Llaneros 2 Trujillanos 2; Carabobo 1 Mineros Guayana 1; Nacional 4 Inter El Vigia 2; Zulianos 2 FCU-ULA 1; Ital-Chacao 1 Caracas 1.
Sep 20: Estudiantes 6 Mineros Guayana 1; Llaneros 2 Nacional 2.
Sep 22: Inter El Vigia 2 Llaneros 2; Mineros Guayana 1 Union Tachira 0; Nacional 0 Estudiantes 6; FCU-ULA 1 Carabobo 4; Trujillanos 0 Ital-Chacao 0.
Sep 26: Ital-Chacao 3 Inter El Vigia 0; Carabobo 1 Caracas 1; Union Tachira 2 FCU-ULA 1; Zulianos 1 Trujillanos 2.
Sep 30: Caracas 4 Inter El Vigia 0.
Oct 3: Union Tachira 1 Trujillanos 0; Ital-Chacao 0 Llaneros 0; Carabobo 1 Inter El Vigia 3; Estudiantes 1 FCU-ULA 2; Mineros Guayana 3 Caracas 1; Zulianos 3 Nacional 0.

VENEZUELA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Union Tachira	10	7	2	1	14	6	23
Caracas	10	5	4	1	16	8	19
Mineros Guayana	10	5	4	1	13	11	19
Trujillanos	10	5	3	2	15	9	18
Ital-Chacao	10	3	6	1	11	5	15
Estudiantes	10	3	3	4	20	13	12
Carabobo	10	2	5	3	12	12	11
Nacional	10	2	5	3	11	18	11
Llaneros	10	1	6	3	13	16	9
Zulianos	10	2	3	5	12	15	9
FCU-ULA	10	1	3	6	12	22	6
Inter El Vigia	10	1	2	7	11	25	5

CONCACAF

MEXICO

WINTER CHAMPIONSHIP

Aug 28: Necaxa 4 Pachuca 1; Atletico Morelia 0 Toluca 1; Tigres 3 Leon 1; Puebla 1 Guadalajara 2; Tecos UAG 1 Cruz Azul 1.
Aug 29: Pumas UNAM 3 Atlante 2; Toros Neza 0 Atlas 5; America 6 Atletico Celaya 0; Santos Laguna 3 Monterrey 2.
Sep 3: Monterrey 1 Atletico Morelia 2.
Sep 4: Toluca 2 Pumas UNAM 0; Cruz Azul 1 Santos Laguna 1; Atletico Celaya 1 Toros Neza 3; Atlas 1 Necaxa 1.
Sep 5: Guadalajara 4 Tigres 0; Leon 2 America 2; Pachuca 1 Tecos UAG 2; Atlante 0 Puebla 0.
Sep 8: Guadalajara 0 Pumas UNAM 0.
Sep 11: Necaxa 4 Tecos UAG 2; Atletico Morelia 0 Cruz Azul 3; Tigres 1 Atlante 1; Puebla 0 Toluca 0; Atlas 3 Atletico Celaya 0.
Sep 12: Pumas UNAM 1 Monterrey 4; Toros Neza 2 Leon 1; Santos Laguna 2 Pachuca 3; America 2 Guadalajara 0.
Sep 17: Tecos UAG 1 Santos 3.
Sep 18: Toluca 2 Tigres 1; Monterrey 4 Puebla 2; Cruz Azul 0 Pumas UNAM 0; Atletico Celaya 2 Necaxa 1.
Sep 19: Guadalajara 2 Toros Neza 1; Pachuca 4 Atletico Morelia 2; Leon 0 Atlas 4; Atlante 0 America 1.
Sep 21: Necaxa 3 Santos 1.
Sep 22: Atletico Morelia 1 Tecos UAG 1; Toros Neza 1 Atlante 1; Pumas UAG 1 Pachuca 0; Tigres 2 Monterrey 0; Puebla 0 Cruz Azul 1; America 1 Toluca 2.
Sep 23: Atletico Celaya 0 Leon 0; Atlas 0 Guadalajara 0.
Sep 25: Toluca 6 Toros Neza 1; Monterrey 2 America 4; Cruz Azul 2 Tigres 0; Tecos UAG 5 Pumas UNAM 4.
Sep 26: Leon 2 Necaxa 0; Guadalajara 0 Atletico Celaya 5; Pachuca 2 Puebla 0; Atlante 3 Atlas 3.
Sep 28: Santos 3 Atletico Morelia 4.
Oct 2: Atletico Celaya 1 Atlante 1; Tigres 6 Pachuca 2; Puebla 0 Tecos UAG 1.
Oct 3: Leon 1 Guadalajara 2; Pumas UNAM 6 Santos 0; Toros Neza 2 Monterrey 2; Atlas 2 Cruz Azul 3.

GROUP 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Toluca	8	6	1	1	17	7	19
Pumas UNAM	9	3	2	4	15	14	11
Tecos UAG	9	3	2	4	14	18	11
Leon	9	2	3	4	10	15	9
Toros Neza	9	2	2	5	11	23	8

GROUP 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cruz Azul	9	4	3	2	13	8	15
Monterrey	9	3	1	5	18	18	10
Atletico Celaya	9	2	3	4	9	15	9
Atletico Morelia	8	2	1	5	10	17	7
Puebla	9	1	3	5	6	12	6

GROUP 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
America	8	5	2	1	19	7	17
Atlas	9	4	4	1	22	10	16
Santos Laguna	9	3	2	4	17	23	11
Atlante	9	1	6	2	11	12	9

GROUP 4

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Guadalajara	9	5	2	2	12	10	17
Necaxa	8	5	1	2	18	11	16
Pachuca	9	5	0	4	17	19	15
Tigres	9	3	2	4	15	15	11

USA

Sep 1: LA Galaxy 3 San Jose Clash 1.
Sep 4: New England 1 Tampa Bay Mutiny 5; DC United 4 Dallas Burn 1; Miami Fusion 1 LA Galaxy 2; Columbus Crew 2 Colorado Rapids 1; San Jose Clash 2 Kansas City Wizards 0.
Sep 5: MetroStars 1 Chicago Fire 2.
Sep 7: New England 3 Kansas City Wizards 2.
Sep 10: Colorado Rapids 0 Kansas City Wizards 0 *Colorado on shoot-outs*; Tampa Bay Mutiny 1 DC United 2.
Sep 11: Miami Fusion 1 New England 1 *Miami on shoot-outs*; Dallas Burn 1 San Jose Clash 0; LA Galaxy 1 Chicago Fire 0.
Sep 12: Columbus Crew 1 MetroStars 2.
Sep 17: Chicago Fire 1 Tampa Bay Mutiny 1 *Chicago on shoot-outs.*
Sep 18: New England 0 Columbus Crew 0 *Columbus on shoot-outs*; DC United 1 MetroStars 1 *DC United on shoot-outs*; Kansas City Wizards 1 Dallas Burn 1 *Dallas on shoot-outs*; Colorado Rapids 1 LA Galaxy 0.
Sep 19: San Jose Clash 6 Miami Fusion 1.
Sep 22: MetroStars 1 San Jose Clash 2.
Sep 23: Chicago 1 Columbus Crew 2.
Sep 24: New England 0 Dallas Burn 1.
Sep 25: Tampa Bay Mutiny 1 MetroStars 2; Kansas City Wizards 0 Colorado Rapids 0 *Colorado on shoot-outs*; LA Galaxy 0 DC United 2.
Sep 26: Columbus Crew 2 Miami Fusion 1; San Jose Clash 2 Chicago Fire 0.
Sep 29: LA Galaxy 4 Colorado Rapids 0.
Oct 1: Colorado Rapids 0 San Jose Clash 0 *Colorado on shoot-outs.*
Oct 2: New England 2 MetroStars 1.
Oct 3: Dallas Burn 4 LA Galaxy 3; Miami Fusion 4 Columbus Crew 1.

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	P	W	SW	L	F	A	Pts
DC United	30	17	6	7	62	38	57
Columbus Crew	31	13	6	12	46	37	45
Tampa Bay Mutiny	30	8	5	17	46	46	29
Miami Fusion	31	7	5	19	40	59	26
New England	31	7	4	20	37	52	25
MetroStars	32	4	3	25	32	64	15

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	P	W	SW	L	F	A	Pts
LA Galaxy	31	16	3	12	48	29	51
Colorado Rapids	30	14	6	10	38	36	48
Dallas Burn	31	15	3	13	52	34	48
Chicago Fire	30	14	2	14	48	34	44
San Jose Clash	31	8	10	13	47	49	34
Kansas City Wizards	30	6	2	22	33	51	20

SW = shoot-out win (1pt)

AFRICA

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

QUARTER-FINALS

Group A

Sep 3: Al Ahly (Egy) 0 Raja Casablanca (Mor) 1.
Sep 4: Hearts of Oak (Gha) 3 Shooting Stars (Nig) 0.
Sep 18: Raja Casablanca 1 Shooting Stars 0.
Sep 19: Hearts of Oak 2 Al Ahly 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Raja Casablanca	3	3	0	0	3	0	9
Hearts of Oak	3	2	0	1	5	2	6
Al Ahly	3	1	0	2	4	5	3
Shooting Stars	3	0	0	3	2	7	0

Group B

Sep 5: Dynamos (Zim) 0 Esperance (Tun) 2; ASEC Abidjan (IvC) 3 SS Saint-Louisienne (Reu) 1.
Sep 18: ASEC Abidjan 2 Dynamos 0.
Sep 19: Esperance 5 SS Saint-Louisienne 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Esperance	3	3	0	0	10	0	9
ASEC Abidjan	3	2	0	1	5	4	6
Saint-Louisienne	3	1	0	2	2	8	3
Dynamos	3	0	0	3	0	5	0

CUP-WINNERS CUP

QUARTER-FINALS

1st legs Sep 4-5; 2nd legs Sep 19-26
Power Dynamos (Zam) 1 Club Africain (Tun) 1
Club Africain 2 Power Dynamos 1
Club Africain 3-2 on agg;
AS Dragons (DRC) 1 Al Masry (Egy) 0
Al Masry 3 AS Dragons 0
Al Masry 3-1 on agg;
Orlando Pirates (SAf) 1 AS Mineurs (Gui) 0
AS Mineurs 1 Orlando Pirates 3
Orlando Pirates 4-1 on agg;
Royal Armed Forces (Mor) 1 Africa Sports (IvC) 1
Africa Sports 1 Royal Armed Forces 0
Africa Sports 2-1 on agg.

CAF CUP

QUARTER-FINALS

1st legs Sep 4-5; 2nd legs Sep 17-19
CS Sfaxien (Tun) 1 Etoile Sahel (Tun) 2
Etoile Sahel 3 CS Sfaxien 3
Etoile Sahel 5-4 on agg;
Kwara United (Nig) 2 Zamalek (Egy) 1
Zamalek 4 Kwara United 0
Zamalek 5-2 on agg;
Etoile Filante (BuF) 1 Canon Yaounde (Cam) 1
Canon Yaounde 1 Etoile Filante 0
Canon Yaounde 2-1 on agg;
Wydad Casablanca (Mor) 1 US Medina (Alg) 0
US Medina 2 Wydad Casablanca 1
Agg 2-2. Wydad Casablanca on away goals.

ASIA

CHAMPIONS CUP

FIRST ROUND

WEST ASIA ZONE
Al Wahda (UAE) 2 Al Saad (Qat) 2
Al Saad 1 Al Wahda 1
Agg 3-3. Al Saad on away goals;
Irtysh Pavlodar (Kaz) 7 Pakhtakor Tashkent (Uzb) 0
Pakhtakor Tashkent 5 Irtysh Pavlodar 2
Irtysh 9-5 on agg;
Varzob Dushanbe (Taj) 4 CAG Dinamo Bishkek (Kyr) 0
CAG Dinamo Bishkek 1 Varzob Dushanbe 1
Varzob 5-1 on agg;

Walkover:
Al Wahda (Yem) – *Al Qadeseya (Kuw) withdrew*
Byes: Piroozi (Irn), Al Ansar (Leb), Al Shorta (Irq), Al Hilal (Sau)

EAST ASIA ZONE
Mohun Bagan (Ind) 2 Sangshad (Ban) 1
Sangshad 0 Mohun Bagan 0
Mohun 2-1 on agg;
Singapore Armed Forces 8 Royal Dolphins (Cmb) 1
Royal Dolphins 2 Singapore Armed Forces 3
Singapore Armed Forces 11-3 on agg;
PSIS (Ins) 2 Suwon Bluewings (SKo) 3
Suwon Bluewings 6 PSIS 2
Suwon 9-4 on agg

Walkovers:
Valencia (Mdv) – *Nepalese representatives withdrew*
Kashima Antlers (Jap) – *Dalian Wanda (Chn) withdrew*
The Cong (Vie) – *Happy Valley (HK) withdrew*
Bye: Jubilo Iwata (Jap)

CUP-WINNERS CUP

FIRST ROUND

WEST ASIA ZONE
Esteghlal (Irn) 7 Homenmen (Leb) 0
Homenmen 0 Esteghlal 8
Esteghlal 15-0 on agg;
Al Ittihad (Yem) 2 Al Rayyan (Qat) 0
Al Rayyan 2 Al Ittihad 1
Al Ittihad 3-2 on agg;
Al Jaish (Syr) 0 Al Ain (UAE) 1
Al Ain 1 Al Jaish 2
Agg 2-2. Al Jaish on away goals;
Kaysar Hurricane (Kaz) 3 Khuja Karim (Taj) 0
Khuja Karim 3 Kaysar Hurricane 0
Agg 3-3. Kaysar 4-3 on pens

Walkover:
Al Zawra (Irq) – *Al Arabi (Kuw) withdrew*
Byes: Al Ittihad (Sau), Al Ahly (Egy), Nav bahkor Namangan (Uzb)

EAST ASIA ZONE
New Radiant (Mdv) 1 Ho Chi Minh (Vie) 3
Ho Chi Minh 1 New Radiant 0
Ho Chi Minh 4-1 on agg

Byes: Shimizu S-Pulse (Jap), Shanghai Shenhua (Chn), Sembawang Rangers (Sin), Anyang LG Cheetahs (SKo), South China (HK), Bangkok Bank (Tha), Persebaya Surabaya (Ins)

JAPAN

J.LEAGUE – SECOND STAGE

Sep 4: Urawa Reds 1 Jubilo Iwata 2 (aet); Nagoya Grampus Eight 3 Cerezo Osaka 2; Gamba Osaka 1 Shimizu S-Pulse 0; Sanfrecce Hiroshima 2 Kyoto Purple Sanga 1; Verdy Kawasaki 2 Bellmare Hiratsuka 1 (aet); Avispa Fukuoka 2 Kashima Antlers 3; Vissel Kobe 0 Kashiwa Reysol 2; JEF United Ichihara 2 Yokohama F.Marinos 3 (aet).
Sep 11: Cerezo Osaka 4 Gamba Osaka 1; Kashima Antlers 2 Urawa Reds 1 (aet); Shimizu S-Pulse 2 JEF United Ichihara 1 (aet); Bellmare Hiratsuka 0 Avispa Fukuoka 3; Kashiwa Reysol 0 Sanfrecce Hiroshima 4; Jubilo Iwata 1 Nagoya Grampus Eight 2; Yokohama F.Marinos 0 Vissel Kobe 1; Kyoto Purple Sanga 1 Verdy Kawasaki 0 (aet).
Sep 15: Gamba Osaka 3 Jubilo Iwata 1; JEF United Ichihara 2 Cerezo Osaka 0; Nagoya Grampus Eight 3 Kashima Antlers 1; Sanfrecce Hiroshima 2 Yokohama F.Marinos 1; Vissel Kobe 1 Shimizu S-Pulse 2; Verdy Kawasaki 1 Kashiwa Reysol 3; Bellmare Hiratsuka 0 Kyoto Purple Sanga 1; Avispa Fukuoka 2 Urawa Reds 1 (aet).
Sep 18: Shimizu S-Pulse 2 Sanfrecce Hiroshima 0; Yokohama F.Marinos 3 Verdy Kawasaki 2 (aet); Kashima Antlers 1 Gamba Osaka 0 (aet); Urawa Reds 1 Nagoya Grampus Eight 2 (aet); Kashiwa Reysol 1 Bellmare Hiratsuka 0; Jubilo Iwata 1 JEF United Ichihara 2 (aet); Kyoto Purple Sanga 1 Avispa Fukuoka 5; Cerezo Osaka 5 Vissel Kobe 0.
Sep 22: Kyoto Purple Sanga 1 Kashiwa Reysol 2 (aet).
Sep 23: JEF United Ichihara 0 Kashima Antlers 2; Verdy Kawasaki 0 Shimizu S-Pulse 2; Sanfrecce Hiroshima 1 Cerezo Osaka 4; Vissel Kobe 0 Jubilo Iwata 0 (aet); Gamba Osaka 1 Urawa Reds 2; Avispa Fukuoka 1 Nagoya Grampus Eight 3; Bellmare Hiratsuka 0; Yokohama F.Marinos 2.

JAPAN

	P	W1	W2	D	L	F	A	Pts
Shimizu S-Pulse	10	7	1	0	2	20	9	23
Yokohama FM	10	5	2	1	2	22	11	20
Kashiwa Reysol	10	5	2	0	3	16	12	19
Grampus Eight	10	5	1	1	3	22	20	18
Kyoto PS	10	5	1	0	4	15	13	17
Cerezo Osaka	10	3	3	0	4	25	17	15
Sanfrecce H	9	4	1	0	4	18	17	14
Kashima Antlers	10	3	2	0	5	17	15	13
Verdy Kawasaki	10	3	2	0	5	17	18	13
Avispa Fukuoka	9	3	1	1	4	16	13	12
Gamba Osaka	10	3	1	0	6	9	14	11
Vissel Kobe	10	2	1	3	4	12	19	11
JEF United	10	2	2	0	6	15	18	10
Urawa Reds	10	2	0	0	8	12	21	6
Jubilo Iwata	10	1	1	1	7	9	19	6
Bellmare H	10	1	0	1	7	11	20	4

W1 = win in 90 mins (3pts); W2 = win in extra time (2pts); Draw (1pt)

NEXT MONTH

A WORLD SOCCER SPECIAL

- 100 players of the century – as decided by you in our exclusive reader poll
- A century of soccer reviewed by Brian Glanville, Keir Radnedge and World Soccer correspondents around the world
- The milestones, the memories, the major personalities – all brought together in a special collector's edition

DECEMBER 1999 EDITION
ON SALE NOVEMBER 12

Shevchenko joins

Paddy Agnew follows the early-season thrills in Serie A

Up and running...new boy Andrii Shevchenko scored a hat-trick in Milan's epic 4-4 draw with Lazio

SUNDAY, October 3 is a date that Lazio and Milan fans are not likely to forget in a hurry. On what was only the fourth weekend of the Serie A season, the two who had fought out such a close and at times bitter championship battle in the previous campaign met in a 'revenge' clash at the Olympic Stadium in Rome. It finished 4-4 and was one of the best Serie A games of the decade.

Even if the evening's entertainment ended with the new-look Inter, led by ex-Juventus coach Marcello Lippi, on top of the Serie A table, there was no doubting the evidence provided by the Olympic Stadium – namely that Lazio and Milan will be highly competitive units throughout this season, both domestically and in Europe.

Further, that Lazio-Milan draw emphatically underlined the arrival of Ukraine star Andrii Shevchenko in the Serie A Hall of Fame. In a hectic game, with Milan twice coming from behind before taking the lead on 4-3, there were many memorable performances, but Shevchenko's hat-trick represented arguably the best individual display.

Milan goalkeeper Christian Abbiati was outstanding, despite an own goal that was more than compensated for by a series of brilliant late, point-saving stops. Lazio's Chilean striker Marcelo Salas once again reminded us that it is not necessary to stand over six feet to be deadly effective in the air.

Milan's evergreen 33-year-old Liberian George Weah proved one more time that, with him in the side, Milan have an added edge of unpredictable invention. Lazio's Yugoslav defender Sinisa Mihajlovic yet again proved that there are few, if any, more accurate strikers of a dead ball in the modern game.

We are by now deliciously familiar with the sumptuous skills of tried and true Serie A campaigners such as Salas, Weah, Mihajlovic et al. Shevchenko, on the other hand, was playing in only his fourth Italian League game and, what is more, in his first Serie A 'Big Match'. He could have been forgiven if he had been overwhelmed by the occasion.

He could have been forgiven, too, if he had taken time to adapt to the ways of Italy's top flight, so different from the Ukrainian League. It is always worth recalling that even as accomplished a maestro as Frenchman Michel Platini went six months in Serie A before finding the measure of things.

Shevchenko, however, got on the scoresheet in his first game, a 2-2 away draw with Lecce, and seemingly intends to continue in that vein. Certainly his performance against Lazio would suggest that he could make a more profound impact on Italian soccer than those Russian, Belorussian, Ukrainian and ex-USSR players who have gone before him, including Zavarov and Aleinikov (both ex-Juventus), Mikhailichenko (ex-Sampdoria), Shalimov (ex-Foggia, Inter and Udinese), Kolivanov (Bologna) Kanchelskis (ex-Fiorentina) and Alenitchev (Roma).

Speaking a couple of days after the match, Shevchenko showed a commendable willingness to play down both his hat-trick and the flattering media comparisons with other stars of Serie A.

"I'm not Ronaldo, I'm just myself trying to look after myself," he said. "One thing about Italy worries me – everything moves so quickly. You score three goals and everyone says you're a genius. You go for two games without scoring and the same people will be saying that you're in crisis."

For the time being, however, neither Shevchenko nor Milan looks in crisis and that is said notwithstanding the club's less than all-impressive start in the Champions League.

In truth, both Milan and Lazio ought to come through their Champions League first phase groups and that is more than can be said of Fiorentina, beaten 4-2 in a spectacular Champions League clash by Barcelona at Camp Nou. Fiorentina's troubles in Europe have been reflected in the League, where their 3-1 home loss to Roma on the fourth day of the season not only ended a 21-month, 35-match unbeaten home run but also underlined the credibility of Roma's championship challenge this season.

> ***'Italy worries me: score three goals and they think you're a genius'*** Andrii Shevchenko

They have not won the title since 1983 but already the signs are there that Roma this year will be a factor in the contest right down to the wire. The key factor in the Roma revival, of course, is new coach Fabio Capello,

the stars

who has won four titles with Milan plus one in Spain with Real Madrid.

Capello's guiding hand, new Brazilian midfielder Assuncao, the playmaking skills of captain Francesco Totti and the sharpshooting of another new arrival, Vincenzo Montella (ex-Sampdoria), are all factors behind Roma's resurgence.

The club's problems may come further down the line when their overall squad strength might not prove up to the requirements of modern two-games-a-week soccer.

If Capello appears to have dusted down the cobwebs in the Roma dressing-room, his colleague at Inter, Marcello Lippi, seems to have waved a magic wand. Inter, of course, probably were flattered to find themselves on top of the table after only four matchdays, but given that they are one of the most changed Serie A teams, it was intriguing to find them showing the way so early.

A new coach such as Lippi and players new to the club (striker Christian Vieri, Greek midfielder Grigoris Georgatos, midfielder Luigi Di Biagio, French defender Laurent Blanc, right-back Christian Panucci etc) might have taken time to get into their stride, yet a 5-1 thrashing of Parma on the third day of the season suggested that Inter were coming along nicely, thank you.

The club's good start provided their rivals with two good reasons to worry. The first is that Lippi is clearly only just beginning his work and it is obvious that the side will have room for improvement. For a second reason, like Milan last season, Inter could be greatly advantaged in the League contest by the fact that they are not involved in European competition this year.

Inter's good start, too, has thus far been achieved without Ronaldo, who has been dropped by Lippi until such time as he feels that the Brazilian has refound both full fitness and his best form. Lippi could admittedly afford himself this luxury thanks to the consistent brilliance of £31million Vieri, partnered by the redoubtable Chilean Ivan Zamorano.

The good form shown by the pairing also has helped take the pressure off Ronaldo, who remains the great mystery of Italian soccer.

When, if ever, will he regain his form? What exactly is wrong with him? Will he ever shake off the negative effects of France 98? Are his problems now more in his head than in his knees? Is he a case of premature burn-out?

Four or five good performances, one after the other, would dismiss all the above questions. But until Ronaldo turns it on again, we are left looking at a sad shadow of the player whose scoring ability took Inter to within inches of winning the title two seasons ago.

More on this subject anon.

Carolina gets her cards

SPARE a thought for 35-year-old Carolina Morace, whose mid-summer appointment as coach to a Third Division side, Viterbese, was reported in the August issue. That appointment earned her worldwide publicity as the first woman professional coach.

Unfortunately, Carolina lasted just two weeks into the season before parting company with Viterbese's controversial *padrone*, businessman Luciano Gaucci, who in six years of soccer club ownership (he also owns Perugia) has sacked no fewer than 12 coaches.

He apparently prompted Ms Morace's resignation by threatening to sack her closest collaborators on the day after Viterbese had lost 5-2 away to Calabrian side Crotone.

Carolina can take some meagre comfort from the thought that she is in good company. Those coaches sacked by Gaucci include Nevio Scala and Vujadin Boskov. Be they male or female, he fires them.

Pro-file Serginho

Brazilian express who's an instant hit at the San Siro

ALL ABOARD the Sao Paulo Express. Milan fans are scrambling to climb on speedy new Brazilian midfielder Serginho's bandwagon.

He certainly did not take long to build up a head of steam at his new workplace following his £8million move from Sao Paulo in the summer.

On his Serie A debut, a 3-1 victory at home to Perugia, he was quite exceptional, constantly embarrassing the visitors' rearguard with his pace and dribbling ability, and capping a near flawless start with a second-half sprint to the byline and an exquisite cross for Andrii Shevchenko to head in.

He could not have made a more exciting start to his Milan career, but there was even better to come six days later. On a rain-sodden night in Bari, Serginho was still changing into boots with a longer stud when the referee blew to begin the game. It was the only moment in the match when he was caught napping.

Again the Brazilian was in inspired mode on the left flank and the equaliser he subtly clipped past Francesco Mancini was a delicious mixture of composure and technical virtuosity.

His adoption by the Milan faithful was now complete and his enormous popularity was there for all to see when his new side met Galatasaray in the Champions League. Poor control or a misplaced pass from Oliver Bierhoff or Thomas Helveg immediately sparked jeers from the San Siro crowd. But when Serginho erred, the same arch-critics could not be heard. Love is blind.

"I've heard our supporters sing that Serginho is one of us and I couldn't agree more," says Milan president Silvio Berlusconi. "We love spectacular players and he obviously comes into such a category. We've already come to expect the sensational from him, and I'm sure he will not disappoint us."

Serginho is a late developer. Although 28, he played only 100 or so Brazilian League games, and has been a member of the full Brazil squad for little more than a year – understandable, given the brilliance shown on the left of defence or midfield by Roberto Carlos and Ze Roberto. Serginho knows he has no time to lose, and aims to squeeze the maximum from his stay in Milan. "Everything is in place here for me to improve," he says. "I'm aware that I need to work on certain areas of my game, especially defensively, and I hope that a tough, tactically very strong championship like Serie A will help me a lot.

"My first aim in Italy is to play regularly, the second is to win trophies with Milan, and the third is to make a strong case for the Brazil coach to pick me."

Nick Bidwell

Fact file

Club Milan (Ita)
Country Brazil
Born June 27, 1971, in Nilopolis
Previous clubs Itaperuna RJ, Bahia, Flamengo, Cruzeiro, Sao Paulo
International debut September 1998, v Yugoslavia
International caps 5
Honours Sao Paulo state championship 1998

Appeal for sympathy...Real Madrid's Nicolas Anelka

Anelka times it badly

The Real Madrid striker has sparked yet more controversy, writes Keir Radnedge

NICOLAS ANELKA has pleaded with fans and the media to give him the time he needs to adjust to Real Madrid, Spanish football – and the weight of his £23million transfer fee.

That he should have done so in the wake of Madrid's turbulent 3-2 home defeat by struggling Valencia, however, merely increased the speculation about how long he will remain in Spain. The Frenchman's comments emerged just as, simultaneously, other reports were suggesting that Madrid had proposed loaning him to Juventus in exchange for compatriot Zinedine Zidane.

"I just keep hearing the same old lies, time after time," complained Anelka. "People don't seem to realise how hard it has been for me to come into a new club and a new country. Everything is very different to what I was used to – including the football itself, which is much slower than in England.

"At Arsenal a lot of the game was about long balls and balls in the air. Here, players are used to many more touches on the ball, and sometimes it feels like I don't get any service at all. I'm still not certain what I have to do about that. It'll take time.

"I understand why people are getting impatient. But it's a big responsibility when a club has paid so much money for you. I think Denilson had the same problem when he went to Betis. Of course I want to play well and score lots of goals, but I need to build up my confidence to start doing that. I know it will work out in the end.

"The same sort of thing happened when I went to Arsenal. In the end I scored 17 goals, I think, last season and the people who had queued up to criticise me at the start were the ones who wanted to come up to me and tell me how they had always believed in me."

Anelka had to start building bridges somewhere after his gaffe when he turned down an invitation to a luncheon hosted by Spain's Prime Minister, Jose Maria Aznar, in honour of visiting French head of state Jacques Chirac. Anelka turned sulky when his demand that one of his notorious brothers should also come was rejected.

Madrid's directors were virtually apoplectic. For the first time Anelka was told he had to go, no argument. Not only that but Anelka was sent armed with Real Madrid shirts, which he duly presented to Aznar and Chirac. So all was well that ended well – but it was a close-run thing.

Madrid were also up in arms over the mini bullfight staged by star forward Raul and skipper Fernando Hierro. This time the fault lay at the door of national coach Jose Antonio Camacho. In the lengthy run-up to the Euro 2000 qualifier against Israel, Camacho laid on a *capea* – the sort of bullfighting with young calves that is popular at posh parties.

The difference was that the two Madrid players took up the cape for fun. Their club president, Lorenzo Sanz, did not see the funny side of his valuable players putting themselves at risk and protested to the federation. Camacho duly apologised.

Madrid had been particularly sensitive about Raul because the big match against Barcelona was coming up and they knew that they would be without the suspended Roberto Carlos and Hierro. Roberto Carlos had been sent off in the ninth minute against Valencia for handling on the goal line, while Hierro was booked, taking him over the disciplinary limit, for insulting referee Iturralde Gonzalez. The official also sent off Madrid coach John Toshack for dissent.

The defeat by Valencia was Toshack's first home setback in 45 League matches in his two spells in charge at the Estadio Bernabeu. Madrid's destroyer was attacking midfielder Gaizka Mendieta who converted the penalty conceded by Roberto Carlos – making it the fourth successive time he has scored in the

Goals from midfield...Valencia's Gaizka Mendieta

Bernabeu in the League. Three of those goals have been penalties and the other a free-kick, scored last season.

Madrid tried in vain to sign Mendieta during the summer, but he was persuaded to stay at Valencia by the arrival of Argentine coach Hector Cuper from Mallorca. Cuper had his work cut out getting his ideas over in the early weeks of the season – which accounts for Valencia's poor start – but the triumph in Madrid heralded a brighter future.

At least Madrid fans could raise a smile by glancing at neighbours Atletico. The club signed Italian coach Claudio Ranieri during the summer from Valencia and expected instant results. Instead, they slumped to the bottom of the table with four points out of a possible 18 and only six goals in six games. With morale and confidence evaporated, it will take a lot of hard work and good fortune to lift the *Colchoneros* to mid-table safety – never mind qualify for Europe.

President Jesus Gil was predictably furious, accusing several players of not trying hard enough out on the pitch and thus not caring enough – something of which Gil could never be accused. He ordered Ranieri to ring the changes and began casting around even at this early stage for possible mid-winter reinforcements.

Celta's Russian midfielder Alexander Mostovoi is one possibility, with Diego Simeone, the Lazio midfielder formerly of Inter and Atletico, another. Simeone would at least put some steel back into midfield, though why he would want to leave high-flying, Champions League-challenging Lazio for a fight against Spanish relegation is unclear.

Critics among Atletico fans have pinpointed Miguel Angel Gil, son of the president and the club's general manager, as being responsible for the club's slump. But president Gil was having none of it. He said: "It hurts me that people attack my son. He has been a key figure in the modernisation of the club and is vital for the health of the club. It's thanks to him that I have had more time to concentrate on politics."

For all that, it is 64 years since an early-season slump last saw Atletico bottom of the table.

At the other extreme have been Espanyol – victory over Atletico edged them into fourth place – and their Argentinian coach, Miguel Angel Brindisi. He took over part-way into last season and just missed guiding Espanyol into the UEFA Cup.

Raul Tamudo and the Paraguayan, Julio Cesar Benitez, are proving quite a handful for opposing defenders, with both having scored 19 goals since Brindisi's arrival.

Meanwhile the other Catalan side, Barcelona, have pushed along steadily at the top of the table. Their 2-0 away win over Valladolid took them two points clear of Rayo Vallecano. Patrick Kluivert and Rivaldo scored the goals.

Pro-file Ruud Hesp

Dreams can come true – and how!

THERE is one consistent theme that comes through all interviews with Ruud Hesp, the Dutch goalkeeper at Spanish champions Barcelona – the emphasis on the fact that, sometimes, outrageous dreams do come true.

From playing at the provincial club centres of Holland to the citadel of Camp Nou was beyond the wildest expectations of a goalkeeper seemingly destined to spend his career as nothing more than a journeyman professional.

But since Hesp was plucked from Roda JC Kerkrade, he has become the embodiment of the fairytale transfer, playing a major role in the club's success over the past two seasons. Now, with the Champions League under way and Barcelona seeking greater glory on the continental stage, Hesp finds himself a key component in a side determined to win the competition this season.

"It didn't take me long to wake up from the dream," says Hesp of his surprise transfer in mid-1997 at the age of 31. "After a few weeks we played against Real Mallorca in the Super Cup and lost 4-1 and I learnt immediately the other side of life here. If you don't succeed the people in Barcelona can be really hard on you."

Since then Hesp has gone a long way to winning the affection of the *socios*. He helped the club win the Double as well as the European Super Cup in his first season, and then added a much more convincing championship title at the end of 1998-99.

His life has been totally changed. On the day he arrived at Barça he had butterflies in his stomach, wondering how the club's legion of stars would react to him.

Now he is a confident part of a big family group, helped no doubt by the large Dutch contingent that coach Louis Van Gaal has taken on board. "I enjoy every game and with that attitude the pressure is less," he says. "I have learnt more in the last two years here than in my whole previous career. To be honest, training is harder than playing because I'm up against Figo, Rivaldo, Kluivert and the rest!"

Hesp's senior career began at Haarlem in October 1985. He found regular football at Fortuna Sittard, but was relegated with them in 1993 and spent one season in the Second Division before moving to Roda JC. In his first season they were runners-up to Ajax and two years later came his first trophy, a 4-2 win over Heerenveen in the Amstel Cup.

Three weeks after Hesp's surprise move to Spain, Barça's Portuguese international goalkeeper Vitor Baia was injured. "It was a lucky break for me because I got to play right away, and really it's just gone from there," says the keeper.

Proof, as he points out, that sometimes dreams can come true.

Mark Gleeson

Fact file

Club Barcelona (Spa)
Country Holland
Born October 31, 1965, in Bussum
Previous clubs Haarlem, Fortuna Sittard, Roda JC Kerkrade
Honours Dutch Cup 1997; European Supercup 1997; Spanish League 1998, 1999; Spanish Cup 1998

Sforza set to settle

Kaiserslautern's outspoken star looks likely to stay after truce with coach, says Keir Radnedge

Looking sharp...Sforza was quick to criticise Rehhagel after Kaiserslautern's early slump

CIRI SFORZA and Otto Rehhagel settled into an uneasy truce as Kaiserslautern started putting their act back together – progressing to the second round of the UEFA Cup and beginning to claw their way up the Bundesliga.

Their poor start brought memories of the 1996 relegation season flooding back for the fans, and matters went from bad to worse when Swiss midfielder Sforza spoke out publicly.

He complained that Kaiserslautern were employing reckless attacking tactics which left them desperately exposed on the break. Rehhagel, former Werder Bremen and – briefly – Bayern Munich boss, does not take kindly to criticism. Sforza was dropped, fined £10,000 and transfer-listed by president Jurgen Friedrich.

But not for long. An injury crisis ensured Sforza's recall as Kaiserslautern completed their UEFA Cup first-round win over Kilmarnock and then edged up the table with a 4-2 defeat of Unterhaching.

Man of the match against the Munich minnows was France World Cup-winner Youri Djorkaeff. But it was Sforza, cheekily, who claimed all the credit as well as scoring with a spectacular overhead kick – his first League goal for 5,128 minutes.

Sforza wasted no time in saying: "That was what I wanted to see. That was the real Kaiserslautern." The Swiss international would not comment directly on his tangle with Rehhagel, only offering an oblique, Cantonaesque: "The fact that some people within the club leaned a long way out of the window and then struggled to get back in is not my problem."

The Kaiserslautern establishment barely mentioned Sforza. Rehhagel had words of praise only for Djorkaeff, who scored two goals from a role directly behind central striker Olaf Marschall.

Sforza clearly enjoyed linking through to Djorkaeff from his own redefined position as anchor man in the centre of midfield. The irony was that in the summer Sforza had made no secret of his reservations about the arrival of his former Internazionale team-mate.

Any worries about understanding are all gone now. Out on the pitch the pair maintain a running dialogue in French. Friedrich said: "If everybody here understood each other as well as those two we would have absolutely nothing to worry about."

The ripples of the Sforza affair spread far and wide and included the departure of Jurgen Sparwasser as president and general manager of the players' union. Sparwasser's goal for East Germany beat West Germany in Hamburg during the 1974 World Cup finals. Later he took advantage of a veterans' match in the west to flee the old GDR. He ran into trouble with his union colleagues when he appeared to be taking Kaiserslautern's side in the row with Sforza.

Borussia Dortmund took over at the top of the table from Hamburg. Dortmund, making steady progress also in the Champions League, have every intention of being a force for a long time. Off the pitch they aim to be the first German club to become a public limited company, with a stock market profile as early as February.

Leverkusen sit comfortably in third place with champions Bayern Munich fifth and Freiburg – to their own great surprise – in between.

Coach Volker Finke has no illusions that it will last. He said: "Anyone who knew what we really pay our players would think it a huge joke if we said that we intended to stay this far up the table. Our aim remains to ensure that we are not relegated."

Finke has always been an innovative coach. But the one area in which he does not appear to possess the necessary magic concerns the taking of penalties. In a 2-1 win over Werder Bremen, Tunisia's Adel Sellimi missed Freiburg's fourth penalty out of six this season – Sellimi's third out of five. Nor is this a new phenomenon. Last season Freiburg converted only two of their eight penalty awards. Earlier this term Levan Kobiaschwili missed against Ulm before Sellimi took over.

Finke has given up on the science of the penalty kick. When asked who would take Freiburg's next penalty, he said simply: "Anyone who feels up to it."

Ribbeck in a bust-up

GERMANY's preparations for the crucial Euro 2000 qualifier against Turkey had a bad start when goalkeeping coach Sepp Maier was given a public ticking-off by Erich Ribbeck, the national team boss.

Ribbeck has maintained that he considers that both Oliver Kahn from Bayern and Dortmund's Jens Lehmann are equal as No 1 keeper. Kahn is designated as No 1a by Ribbeck, Lehmann as No 1b.

The problem for Maier was that he also has a coaching role with Bayern and thus works closely with Kahn, whom he thinks is the better keeper and should be rewarded with recognition as such. However, he made the mistake of saying so in public. Ribbeck was furious and advised Maier, in a magazine column, to "keep his trap shut".

Lehmann had kept faultlessly against both Finland and Northern Ireland, but Ribbeck had little option other than to recall Kahn for the Turkey match – it was being played in Munich and Ribbeck needed all the support he could get.

Green for go...Sedan have begun in style

Sedan's start is a pleasant surprise

SEDAN are hardly among the aristocracy of French soccer, or familiar inhabitants of Division One, so when they came up this season they had no great expectations – which may well have worked in their favour.

A more than decent start suggested that, at the very least, they might survive another season in the top flight. Then when Sedan went to Lens, champions two seasons ago, and beat them 3-0, eyebrows well and truly shot up.

Lens are still no pushovers, despite losing several of that all-conquering team, including international forward Tony Vairelles – but this time they were humiliated.

It was a happy return for Sedan's three former Lens players, Pierre Deblock, Cedric Mionnet and Plus N'Diefi. Deblock, one of the scorers, said: "The fairytale continues. Nobody thought we would come up. Nobody thought we would stay up."

Deblock also pointed out that the leading clubs, such as Bordeaux and Marseille, had been distracted by European competition, whereas Sedan had only domestic arrangements to bother about.

After the ninth round of League matches, Sedan, thanks to a 2-1 home win over Troyes, were tucked handily in fourth place with 17 points, just one behind joint leaders Monaco, Paris Saint-Germain and Auxerre.

Michele Padovano is back in action for Metz after 18 months on the sidelines with a variety of injuries, culminating in cruciate ligament problems. The former Juventus and Crystal Palace forward finally underwent an operation in October last year and hauled himself through long months of rehabilitation. He then suffered a setback when laid low by a bout of lumbago just as he was on the point of return.

The Italian's patience paid off, however, and he has forced his way into the side. It is still early days, though, and coach Joel Muller, while praising Padovano's form in the opening games, fully expected some reaction to set in. It duly occurred in a 2-2 draw at Monaco, where the player struggled.

Patience also has proved a virtue for Fabien Cool, who has at long last made the Auxerre goalkeeper's jersey definitively his, after queuing up behind internationals Bruno Martini and Lionel Charbonnier.

The 25-year-old Cool is one reason behind Auxerre's early-season pace-setting form. He was outstanding in the 2-1 win over Saint-Etienne, and assistant manager Dominique Cuperly says: "He has a very balanced outlook. He is serious, dedicated and listens a lot. And he is a born competitor."

Cuperly adds that with his calm approach and his impressive physique, Cool resembles goalkeepers such as Peter Schmeichel. And we all know how long Schmeichel has gone on.

Andre Duclos

Pro-file Sebastian Deisler

A Great White Hope – at 19

THERE is a commonly heard complaint these days in Germany that the number of top-quality young players in the Bundesliga are in short supply. One who stands out amid the doom and gloom is Hertha Berlin midfield starlet Sebastian Deisler.

The 19-year-old has made the journey from substitute bench nonentity at Borussia Monchengladbach to Great White Hope of German football in double-quick time. At the start of last season, he had not played in a single Bundesliga game. He had just starred for the Under-18 squad who were second at the 1998 European Championship but was not expected to figure prominently in the Gladbach first team in 98-99.

Then, with both the team and their playmaker Kalle Pflipsen failing to spark, Deisler was given an extended run, and despite being thrown into a side destined for relegation, he rose effortlessly above all the mediocrity. In only 17 First Division matches he became 'Das Super-Talent'.

There was never any chance of the boy wonder remaining at Gladbach for a spot of Second Division jankers. Every club in the Bundesliga was on his trail and so were leading foreign outfits such as Real Madrid, Udinese and Milan, who sent former sweeper and captain Franco Baresi to Germany to check him out.

Not that Deisler would opt for Serie A. Instead, he choose up-and-coming Hertha Berlin, who had just qualified for the Champions League via an excellent third place finish in the Bundesliga.

"To get Deisler was a tremendous boost to our credibility," says Hertha general manager Dieter Hoeness. "We can be proud that we beat everyone to the best young player in Germany at the moment."

Sometimes the hype surrounding Deisler can seem excessive. Former Gladbach coach Friedel Rausch spoke of him as being the sort of talent who "comes along only once every 100 years", while German Under-17 coach Bernd Stober claimed the youngster "hit passes like Netzer and had the vision of Overath". Yet despite it all, Deisler remains amazingly level-headed.

He now plays on the right of midfield for the Berliners – Dariusz Wosz already occupied the central playmaking berth – but has continued on his merry way this season, impressing with his total comfort on the ball and his precision crosses. He also has scored superb free-kicks against Hansa Rostock and Arminia Bielefeld.

Such was his form that Germany coach Erich Ribbeck had no hesitation in including him in the squad for the Euro 2000 qualifiers against Finland and Northern Ireland, only for a torn muscle to rule him out. Deisler was called up again for the final qualifier against Turkey. Further calls will surely follow for this supremely gifted teenager.

Nick Bidwell

Fact file

Club Hertha Berlin
Country Germany
Born January 5, 1980, in Lorrach
Previous clubs FU Lorrach, Borussia Monchengladbach

Leeds see a gap - and go for it

David O'Leary's youngsters are riding high. Gavin Hamilton reports

Top men...Leeds' Lee Bowyer and Michael Bridges

WITH Manchester United, Arsenal and Chelsea sidetracked by commitments in the expanded Champions League, Leeds United took full advantage to go top of the Premier League for the first time since winning the title under Howard Wilkinson in 1992.

Victories over Newcastle, Middlesbrough and Watford took David O'Leary's young side into pole position as the League campaign entered October.

In contrast to the team built by Wilkinson and the tactics of O'Leary's predecessor, George Graham, the current Leeds side are playing entertaining, attacking football.

"There was a time when nobody could stand Leeds United," O'Leary said, referring to the Don Revie side of the 1970s. "We've won over a lot of neutral admirers with the way we're playing."

Much credit is due to O'Leary, who has invested heavily in youth, both through the transfer market – bringing in Michael Bridges (Sunderland), Darren Huckerby (Coventry) and Danny Mills (Charlton) – and by promoting talent from the club's ranks (Jonathon Woodgate, Alan Smith).

O'Leary also has been refreshingly honest in his dealings with the press. He hit out against Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink's excessive wage demands and criticised the format for the UEFA Cup. Leeds were good value for their first-round win over Partizan Belgrade but O'Leary was not happy, saying: "Europe and the competition we're in is a joke. It's an absolute farce. We've drawn a team, Partizan, who were in the Champions League and if we reach the third round we've loads more teams from that competition coming into the UEFA Cup."

Inevitably, doubts have surfaced over whether Leeds can sustain their challenge against financially well-endowed competitors. But O'Leary has a pot of at least £20million for use in the transfer market. He has yet to spend all of the £12m the club received from the sale of Hasselbaink to Atletico Madrid, and, in addition, he was handed £14m after satellite broadcaster BSkyB bought a 9.2 per cent stake in the club.

The manager has also been quick to defend his side (average age 24), and even criticised club chairman Peter Ridsdale, who had said that Leeds had to start delivering silverware. "I thought it was shocking," O'Leary said. "We need people to show a bit of patience rather than get carried away and make silly statements. When you're dealing with players as young and inexperienced as ours, you can't expect too much."

Leeds went top as Manchester United started to stall in the League. A shattering 5-0 defeat at Chelsea, during which Nicky Butt was sent off, exposed United's problems at the back. Manager Alex Ferguson is having trouble replacing goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel. Mark Bosnich's future was placed in question by the signing of Massimo Taibi from Venezia, but a series of gaffes has led to the Italian being dubbed the Blind Venetian. The uncertainty threatens to spread through the team, where influential captain Roy Keane has again been missing through injury.

No such problems at Newcastle, where Bobby Robson's arrival has had an immediate effect – notably on Alan Shearer, whose 10 goals in the first six games under Robson have gone a long way to silencing the many critics, this column included, who have questioned whether he has been the same player since a serious injury in August 1997.

Five of Shearer's recent goals came in an 8-0 rout of Sheffield Wednesday, whose manager Danny Wilson is under growing pressure to quit. Wilson's situation has not been helped by his deteriorating relationship with Benito Carbone. The Italian forward's contract expires next summer but Wednesday are keen to offload him before then.

Two managers defying the odds are Everton's Walter Smith and Peter Reid at newly-promoted Sunderland. A hard-fought Merseyside derby win over Liverpool kept Everton, who struggled for most of last season, in the top six. Sunderland, boosted by Kevin Phillips' goals, were third.

Arsenal's French international midfielder Patrick Vieira faces a lengthy ban after being accused of spitting at West Ham defender Neil Ruddock during an argument following his sending-off in the Premiership encounter at Upton Park.

SCOTLAND

Big test is still to come for Barnes

THE postponement of the first scheduled Rangers v Celtic League fixture, due to Champions League commitments, has left the Scottish footballing public guessing as to whether John Barnes' new-look Celtic have the capability to mount a serious challenge to the might of Dick Advocaat's Rangers.

Champions Rangers set off in defence of the title with eight successive Premier League wins. Celtic started in similarly positive fashion, although their defeat by Dundee United tarnished an otherwise perfect record over the course of the first seven games. But not until coach Barnes has sent his men out to face their Old Firm rivals will he be judged on his ability to restore glory to his new club.

In the UEFA Cup, Celtic have been the principal flag wavers for Scotland, easing past Hapoel Tel Aviv in the first round, while Kilmarnock and St Johnstone were finding their respective opponents, Kaiserslautern and Monaco, too strong to overcome.

In the Champions League, Rangers have demonstrated that a new continental maturity has been instilled in their game. Following a disappointing start with a comprehensive defeat by Valencia, Advocaat's men came within seconds of defeating group favourites Bayern Munich at Ibrox, the Germans equalising in injury time through a deflected free-kick.

Then, in Eindhoven, a late goal from Jorg Albertz provided an important victory, and Rangers now have a realistic chance of qualifying for the latter stages of the tournament.

Aberdeen's problems continue unabated. Their first seven Premier League games ended in defeats, the worst run of results in the club's history, and manager Ebbe Skovdahl's position remains under serious threat unless a rapid improvement is made.

He reacted by making the surprise signing of Moroccan international midfielder Rachid Belabed from Belgian club RWD Molenbeek. He is not the household name the Aberdeen fans have craved, but a lack of cash has prevented the reputedly shrewd Skovdahl from making any more significant deals in the transfer market.

Awaiting judgment...Celtic's John Barnes

Belabed, signed for an undisclosed fee, is the manager's first major acquisition since arriving at Pittodrie in the summer.

Hearts are benefiting from the goalscoring form of Stephane Adam who, along with Darren Jackson and Gary McSwegan, is part of a particularly potent strikeforce. However, Edinburgh rivals Hibernian have failed to fulfil their early-season promise. Even former French international Franck Sauzee is feeling the pressure, having been sent off in the defeat by Celtic at Easter Road.

The First Division is not developing into the one-horse race that Dunfermline fans hoped it would. They have been hit by the challenge of a rejuvenated St Mirren and also have to cope with ambitious Livingston, Second Division champions last season and who now have promotion to the Premier League very much in their sights.

Alan Fairley

N IRELAND

Donaghy takes over as McDonnell quits

NEWRY TOWN have appointed Northern Ireland international defender Mal Donaghy as manager to succeed John McDonnell, who resigned after six months in charge.

The arrival of Donaghy, capped 91 times in the glory days of the 1980s under Billy Bingham, took everybody by surprise because it had looked as if the dream to make Newry Town a real force was in danger of going under.

With minimal local support or interest, things looked black, despite a healthy League position. Now, however, new chairman Colman Rooney has promised funds to strengthen the team further.

There is little joy at the moment for champions Glentoran, who have yet to find the form that brought them the title. They trail six points behind Linfield and Glenavon.

The international side continued to disappoint in competitive games – a 3-0 home defeat by Turkey, with all three goals from Arif, and a 4-0 drubbing by Germany emphasise the problems facing manager Lawrie McMenemy and his assistants Joe Jordan and Pat Jennings.

The coaches have been given a two-year extension to their contracts and must now be looking to draft some young players into the team.

Roy Kitson

WALES

Crows sit proudly on top of the perch

CWMBRAN TOWN have made a superb start to the season and lead the table following their 1-0 win over defending champions Barry Town.

Manager Tony Wilcox has carefully reinforced his side over the close season, and even with Mattie Davies and Carl Hughes out because of long-term injuries, the Crows look very impressive.

Newly-promoted Llanelli, under the guidance of former Wales winger Leighton James, are the surprise team to date and their 5-0 defeat of fellow challengers Aberystwyth Town showed what they can do.

Barry have not impressed so far. The loss of manager Gary Barnett is showing but as the only professional side in the League, they are sure to improve on their current sixth spot.

Mark Hughes was set to be offered the national team manager's job full-time if the side impressed against Switzerland in their final, meaningless, Euro 2000 qualifier.

Mel Thomas

Pro-file Silvinho

Potential in plenty with Arsenal's first Brazilian

ARSENE WENGER's signings have turned the Arsenal dressing-room into a miniature League of Nations. So it was only a matter of time before a Brazilian arrived at Highbury.

Arsenal scouts have visited South America regularly over the past two years, and Argentinian full-back Nelson Vivas joined the Gunners last summer. A year later, Highbury chief scout Steve Rowley thought he had found a likely left-back in Brazil. Rowley took back a video for Wenger to watch, and Arsenal moved in.

Silvinho, 25, was one of the stars of Sao Paulo's Corinthians. He also was eager to escape the chaos that Brazil's domestic football has become. "It's the dream of every Brazilian footballer to play in Europe," says Silvinho. "If you get the chance, you have to give it a go. I knew there were some Italian clubs interested in me but they seemed to pull back when they knew that Arsenal were interested too."

The deal was done for around £4million, which seemed a lot for a player barely tested at international level – one appearance in a friendly against Guatemala in 1998. But Wenger was looking at potential and maybe a long-term successor to 35-year-old Nigel Winterburn. Understudying the ferociously consistent Winterburn is no easy task but Silvinho is prepared to be patient. He also knows that his technical ability offers Wenger other options.

Silvinho came to London with barely a word of English. Now he employs his own interpreter and English teacher, Luis Fasciolo. "Luis has been my voice. I would not have been able to communicate otherwise," says the player. "I want to learn quickly because it's vital to my life here and to my football. But I know two words already – 'good luck' – everyone seems to say them to me."

His wife Lucilena joined him in London in August. They are buying a house and a car, and want to integrate into local life. "We're not fully acquainted with things here yet," he said, "but that will come."

For now, though, Silvinho can move freely, without the trappings of stardom. He has proved he is a quick learner off and on the pitch. Silvinho the defender likes to jockey opponents, to send them where they don't want to go. He shares one quality with Vivas – the ability to play in midfield as well as at full-back. That could come in very handy when Winterburn is in the No 3 shirt.

Silvinho loves to attack. "It would be nice to score a dramatic goal. But for me, real satisfaction comes from the level of performance I offer the team. Being part of Arsenal's squad right now is exciting. I am trying to adapt to the challenge."

Kevin Connolly

Fact file

Club Arsenal (Eng)
Country Brazil
Born April 12, 1974, in Sao Paulo
Previous club Corinthians
International debut February 1998, v Guatemala
International caps 1
Honours Brazilian national championship 1998; Sao Paulo state championship 1995, 1997, 1999

Schmeichel: victim of a grand folly

Alberto da Silva on the Sporting Lisbon crisis

Which way now?...Schmeichel has found Sporting in a sorry state

PORTUGAL

EVERYONE at Sporting Lisbon has been suffering from a grand delusion about Peter Schmeichel – which is one of the reasons why chaos has consumed the club only a few weeks into the new season.

Schmeichel, the Danish goalkeeping hero, arrived after a medal-strewn stay with Manchester United. The Sporting faithful assumed that he had joined their club because there was no other that could possibly satisfy him and that, even at 35, he could help Sporting to 'do a United' in terms of success.

More pragmatic watchers reckoned that Schmeichel fancied an easier ride than he had enjoyed in England and with a contract of considerable value.

Amid the hype, one thing was certain – if the Dane could significantly reduce the number of goals Sporting conceded, then the club would be a long way down the road to becoming champions for the first time since 1981-82.

Admittedly, Schmeichel conceded just five goals in his first five games, but although the team won two of these and drew the other three, their form was mediocre. There was also an early UEFA Cup exit to Viking Stavanger of Norway, and already it is clear that Schmeichel alone will not reproduce the golden days.

The keeper's professionalism cannot be doubted. He is still a fierce competitor, but is getting even bigger and losing mobility. His constant shouting and gesticulating at team-mates has upset some of them, which is not good for team spirit. Sporting suffered badly when the directors, desperate for a big managerial name to lead their charge to the top, came up with a virtually unknown Italian, Giuseppe Materazzi. After that mediocre start, pressure from the fans forced him out. Some directors and other club staff resigned as well.

Now the spotlight is on chairman Jose Roquette, an aristocrat and banker. He wants to sell Sporting's Alvalade stadium, which is in a prime residential and commercial area of the city, and develop the site with flats and shops, while building another ground elsewhere. Not surprisingly, fans are opposed to the idea, believing that Roquette and his colleagues are asset-stripping.

Elections for places on the board are due in November. Meanwhile, Peter Schmeichel looks on.

AUSTRIA

Critical times for Baric and the rest

THESE are critical weeks for Austrian football. The national squad, under Otto Baric, went into the last tie in Group 6 of the Euro 2000 qualifying tournament needing to rehabilitate after defeat and elimination by Spain at the Prater.

Their opponents in Vienna, Cyprus, still had a chance of making the play-offs, while Baric could only look forward to putting things right for the World Cup qualifying competition.

There remains only the prospect of friendlies over the next nine months or so, and following the UEFA Cup visit of Inter Bratislava, there will be no more European club soccer in Vienna this season. Rapid lost 1-0 in the Slovak capital and 2-1 in the return.

Sturm rather surprisingly decided not to switch the Manchester United Champions League tie to Vienna but, as it happened, it probably would not have mattered where they played. One commentator felt that United had shown mercy in not adding to the 3-0 interval lead as coach Ivica Osim's fears were fulfilled.

Since Sturm won the Austrian League, he had been warning that the club had achieved all it could, and that the euphoria should be limited. No goals from three matches said it all, but there could be worse to come before the initial phase is complete.

In the League the Graz clubs are having to take a back seat despite poor results for leaders FC Tirol and Rapid. Tirol remained well ahead, but a 5-0 defeat by SV Ried was the last thing coach 'Kurtl' Jara had expected. Rapid could only draw 1-1 at Salzburg, thanks to Greek import Logonikakis' rocket from well outside the box. Sturm retained third spot and put Champions League horrors momentarily behind them with four goals against Bregenz.

Bob Vaughan

HOLLAND

Two coaches go, and the heat is on Rijkaard

AFTER just six rounds of the Dutch League, two coaches have already parted company with their club.

Frans Thijssen was the first to go, leaving De Graafschap after two matches because he could not work in the way he wanted. This was due to the club's co-operation deal with Udinese, who had sent Massimo Morales to assist Thijssen. The pair did not see eye to eye and Morales was joined by a string of Udinese players who were apparently of little use and disturbed Thijssen's pre-season preparations. When he asked the board to put a stop to it, he found out that they rated the co-operation deal much higher than he did. So he went.

Thijssen was soon followed by Hans Meijer of FC Twente. The German did not hesitate to leave when he was asked to coach relegated Borussia Monchengladbach. He had every reason to do so, because last season Twente announced that they did not want to keep Meijer but could not find the money to buy him out.

There is another coach under pressure – Frank Rijkaard. With Euro 2000 in sight, press and public finally want to see some results from his experiments with the national team.

Rijkaard's latest invention was a training match to select some kind of pre-Euro 2000 squad to play against Belgium, the Czech Republic and Brazil. Winger Marc Overmars was the only surprise omission.

The match against Belgium was bizarre and ill-tempered. No fewer than nine yellow cards and a red were shown in a game that ended in an unbelievable 5-5 draw. Skipper Frank De Boer could not believe his eyes, saying: "This had nothing to do with football."

This was Rijkaard's ninth consecutive match without a win but at least Patrick Kluivert took revenge for his red card in Holland's last confrontation with Belgium, at France 98, by scoring a hat-trick. Edgar Davids, despite problems with his eyes, which were protected by special glasses, scored the other two.

A few weeks after winning the Supercup against Ajax, Feyenoord returned to the Amsterdam Arena but were lucky to earn a 2-2 draw, leaving PSV as the only club with maximum points. However, one of their wins was controversial in the extreme. Against De Graafschap they were awarded a free-kick in the last minute, referee Roelof Luinge pushed a defender aside to create space for the kick, and Luc Nilis used the opportunity to score the winning goal.

On the other hand, PSV should be given credit for their impressive performances. Ambitious Vitesse and last year's runners-up, Willem II, were both thrashed 6-1.

Klaas-Jan Droppert

BELGIUM

Strupar starts in style

CROATIA'S loss may well be Belgium's gain. Branko Strupar, now a naturalised Belgian, made a wonderful start to international life with his adopted country. He was sent on as a substitute by Georges Leekens for what would be his last game in charge, and could not prevent Belgium losing 4-3 at home to Finland. But with three goals in his first two full games, Strupar gave new coach Robert Wasiege cause for optimism.

The Genk striker scored twice in the bizarre 5-5 draw with Holland in Rotterdam, then again in the 4-0 thrashing of Morocco in Brussels. With 12 goals in three games, Belgium brought a spectacular end to their goal famine as they warmed up for their game against England.

The other scorers for the Red Devils against Holland, who they led 2-0 and 4-3, were Bart Goor, the Anderlecht left-winger, Emile Mpenza and Marc Wilmots, later sent off. Mpenza was also on target against Morocco, along with Johan Walem and Lorenzo Staelens, who scored from the spot.

Strupar was no less lively for Genk, with six goals in their first seven games. The champions were among those keeping the pressure on early-season pacesetters Lierse.

Two club coaches went the same way as Leekens – Tomislav Ivic and Willy Reynders.

Ivic, a compatriot of Strupar's, resigned as coach of Standard Liege following the dismal 3-1 home defeat by Charleroi. Many fans boycotted the start then pelted Ivic and his players with rotten eggs at the end. With more than a year left on his contract, Ivic has stayed on as technical advisor to Zeljko Mijac, formerly his right-hand man, who has taken over as coach.

Standard's club captain, Guy Hellers, had been sacked earlier for daring to criticise the board.

Player-power cost Reynders his job as Lokeren's coach. After two early defeats a vote was held which went against him by 19-5. Ronnie Van Geneugden and Rudi Cossey took over on a temporary basis.

Nicholas Harling

REP IRELAND

McCarthy set to go on

MICK McCarthy looks likely to get a new contract as national coach, despite a few recent 'dodgy' team selections.

McCarthy, who took over from Jack Charlton in February 1996, has brought in several young players and generally tries to play attractive football, rather than the 'Route One' favoured by his predecessor.

Some people in the FAI, however, want a change of manager at Under-21 level. Ian Evans, McCarthy's assistant, is the Under-21 boss as well, and McCarthy is likely to insist on keeping him.

Last season the Premier Division was a two-club race between St Patrick's Athletic and Cork City, but St Pat's beat Cork three times as they went on to retain their title. This season Saints have struggled and in the first meeting Cork came out on top.

Shamrock Rovers, the early leaders, will have to do without Jason Sherlock for a year. Sherlock, a former Irish Under-21 player, also plays Gaelic football for Dublin but new Rovers manager Damien Richardson is not prepared to allow him to mix the two sports.

Sean Creedon

Belgian fun...new boy Strupar's goals have lifted the national team

Pro-file Ljubinko Drulovic

Slav who slaves for success in Portugal

FC PORTO are not merely the Mario Jardel Show, a private exhibition for their prolific Brazilian goalscorer. The Portuguese champions for the past five years are just as dependent on a clever little Yugoslav midfielder by the name of Ljubinko Drulovic.

Fans swear by the Slav in the No 11 shirt, and no wonder. In six seasons he has only rarely failed to deliver the goods, popping up with a total of 39 goals by the start of this season and laying on so many more for the likes of Jardel and other grateful team-mates.

From the start, the signs were good that Drulovic and Porto would make a highly compatible couple. In his first season after arriving from provincials Gil Vicente in the summer of 1993, he finished as top scorer with 18 goals, a strike-rate bettered only by Vitoria Setubal's Nigerian Rachidi Yekini, with 21. Porto lost to Benfica in the 93-94 title race, but in Drulovic they had acquired a quite exceptional consolation prize.

The goals never flowed as freely again, but as a provider of chances he blossomed wonderfully, whether used as a left-winger or more latterly as a refined midfield operator. His flair for the creative has been a long-term feature of Porto's approach work.

"Drulovic is a real artist with the ball," says midfield team-mate Rui Barros. "He can open up a defence with a perfect through pass in the blink of an eye, and even when running at full speed down the wing he still has the technique to put in a dangerous cross. Frankly, I don't know why he hasn't been used more often by Yugoslavia [the 31-year-old Drulovic has appeared 19 times for his country but these days is invariably to be found on the bench].

"He doesn't just rely on his skill and imagination. He is one of those players who buzzes around, who works so hard. He is an absolutely indispensable part of the team."

Yugoslavs have a reputation for being the great wanderers of European football, flitting from club to club, country to country. Not Drulovic. He has found a good home at Porto and intends to stay there as long as possible.

"Before coming here, my previous clubs in Yugoslavia and Gil Vicente here were all rather small," says Drulovic. "But then I signed for Porto and discovered a fantastic new world. They were former World and European champions, were very ambitious and everything was geared for success. I've always felt very welcome here. Why would I want to give it up?"

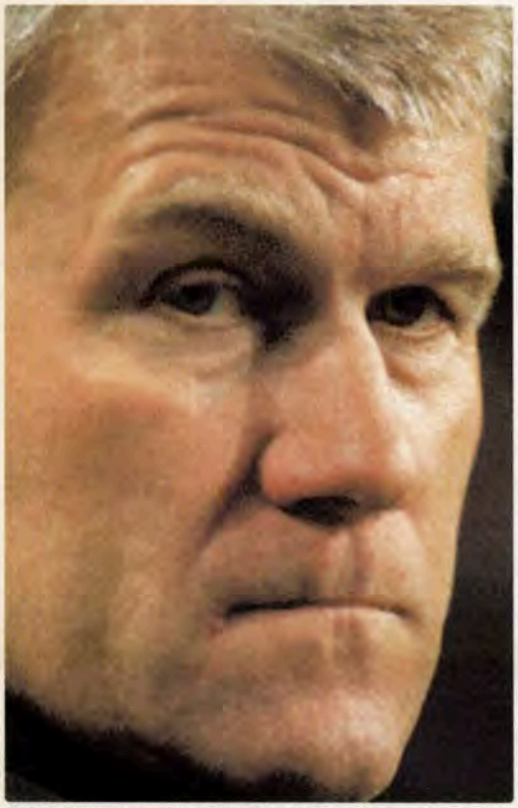
Nick Bidwell

Fact file

Club FC Porto (Por)
Country Yugoslavia
Born September 11, 1968, in Zlathi
Previous clubs FK Zlathi, Sloboda, Rad Belgrade, Gil Vicente (Por)
International debut May 1996, v Japan
International caps 19 (1 gl)
Honours Portuguese League 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999; Portuguese Cup 1994, 1998

Olsen back as the boss

...And Michael Laudrup will be his No 2 in the Danes' dream ticket



Waiting game...Morten Olsen is set to take over

DENMARK

WHILE Denmark's international side pulled off a fabulous 3-2 victory in Italy to keep their Euro 2000 hopes alive, the DBU were finalising the 'dream team' management duo to take the Danes into the new millennium.

Morten Olsen will be the new team boss from next summer after current coach Bo Johansson steps down. And his assistant will be Michael Laudrup, who has never coached or managed at club level but whose football knowledge ranks as high as anyone's after a career at Barcelona, Real Madrid, Juventus, Lazio and Ajax, among other clubs.

After a year that had been almost all doom and gloom, suddenly there is a bouncing new optimism in Danish soccer.

The victory in Naples was extraordinary because Italy had taken a 2-0 lead and looked certain to win. But the fightback was magnificent. Martin Jorgensen scored from a penalty, and after Morten Wieghorst equalised, Jon Dahl Tomasson struck the winner for a third successive qualifying match.

Defeat would have virtually ended Denmark's Euro 2000 hopes, and signalled the end for Johansson. Now he stays, at least for the time being.

Waiting in the wings, whenever they need to start, are two of Denmark's most celebrated football men. Olsen won 102 caps as a libero of international repute, while Laudrup played his 104th and final match in the 1998 World Cup quarter-final against Brazil.

Olsen, who has coached at Brondby, Koln and Ajax, was the obvious choice to succeed Johansson. Laudrup was a surprise. But he vowed to throw himself totally into the job, saying: "One of my tasks will be to watch players. Sometimes that may be at Barcelona or Chelsea, but I will also be dedicated to watching matches in the Danish League.

"It is one of the great joys to go and see games and players – and I believe it is also vital to watch with your own eyes rather than rely on video."

One of the biggest dilemmas for Denmark in the recent era has been finding players to match the technical talent of Laudrup and brother Brian. Now that will be the elder brother's role.

However, Brian, playing these days for Ajax, said he would not be tempted back into international football by Michael's return to the national set-up. He said: "I will not be coming back, whatever people say. I made a decision to stop playing for Denmark after the World Cup in France and I am sticking by that. I am saying it here for the final time."

That is a shame. And it should be remembered that Michael was once just as adamant when he was in international retirement as Denmark won the 1992 European Championship.

Olsen also has brought the elder Laudrup on board to act as inspiration and motivator. He is the most respected player of all time in Denmark, and his influence should help maintain the current improvement in form.

Olsen is remembered for being a supreme stylist but has become more pragmatic as a manager, saying: "I am the kind who wants first of all to win matches. I want my teams to play creative football but I am not an idealist. That is being naive."

In club football, the situation has been less impressive. Poor performances by all four clubs in the UEFA Cup left Denmark with no representatives in the second round of the competition.

Even Brondby have dipped, unable to accommodate the loss of Ebbe Sand to Schalke, although they did manage a 3-1 home victory against great rivals FC Copenhagen, in front of a 16,000 crowd, thanks to two goals from veteran Bent Christensen.

The most notable achievement has been John Jensen's start as manager of Herfolge, unbeaten in his first eight Superliga matches.

Viborg, under coach Kim Poulsen, also began superbly, and stood second in the table.

In the First Division new club FC Mid-Jutland made a runaway start with eight successive wins.

Jim Holden

Motivator...Michael Laudrup

Frozen out...Par Zetterberg

SWEDEN

Soderberg answers his critics

TOMMY SODERBERG created history by becoming the first coach to steer Sweden to the European Championship finals through the qualifying stages.

Soderberg's record in charge is impressive – P18, W12, D3, L3 after the Euro 2000 tie against Luxembourg – and the only thorn among his roses has been the growing concern over the workmanlike nature of his team.

The coach's reluctance to use Anderlecht's classy midfielder, Par Zetterberg, has raised some debate. Zetterberg has a lot of support in Sweden, and former national coach Lars Arnesson recently urged Soderberg to experiment with Zetterberg and Arsenal's Freddie Ljungberg, whom he rates as Sweden's most skilful player.

IFK Gothenburg were the team of the autumn in the League, and coach Stefan Lundin was duly given a new two-year contract.

Helsingborgs coach Aage Hareide is to take over at Denmark's Brondby and will be replaced by Nanne Bergstrand, now with Kalmar.

Pentti Hietanen

SWITZERLAND

Basle back on top

FC BASLE ended St Gallen's 11-match reign at the top of the table by leapfrogging their rivals after winning 2-1 at Neuchatel Xamax.

This 13th fixture was lucky for Basle, whose victory put them top for the first time since 1980, when they won their eighth title.

Coach Christian Gross, who has shaken off his nightmare spell at

Tottenham, has moulded the defence and midfield into successful units. They have conceded only eight goals.

However, Ghanaian Charles Amoah, St Gallen's leading scorer with 10 goals, missed a penalty as they were held to a 2-2 draw by Lausanne.

Grasshopper moved up to third by beating FC Zurich 2-1 in the city derby. Stephane Chapuisat showed a welcome return to form by heading the winner in injury time.

Kubilay Turkyilmaz, now on loan to Lucerne before moving to Brescia in January, scored both goals in a Euro 2000 qualifier against Belarus. That seemed to give the Swiss a good chance of reaching the play-offs, but their hopes were dashed by Denmark's 3-2 victory over group leaders Italy.

Ivar von Rulach

ICELAND

It's 1968 all over again for KR

RUSSIAN tanks patrolled the streets of Prague, Jimi Hendrix was still perfecting the marriage of lighter fuel and the Fender Stratocaster, and a large section of KR Reykjavik's support and all but one of the players were not even a glint in parental eyes.

Now KR have laid to rest the ghost of 1968 to claim their first championship in 31 years, finishing seven points clear of IBV. To complete KR's centennial celebrations, they beat Akranes 3-1 in the Cup Final.

Valur were relegated for the first time in their 89-year history, and were joined by Vikingur, promoted last season. Perennial yo-yo sides Fylkir and Stjarnan came up again.

On the international front, a 3-0 win against Andorra was followed by a 1-0 home defeat by Ukraine, in which midfielder Runar Kristinsson made his 78th appearance to become his country's most-capped player.

Rab Christie

NORWAY

Mixed fortunes for striking pair

NORWAY'S representatives in the Champions League, Molde and Rosenborg, have had mixed fortunes, but both teams have strikers who have turned in impressive displays on the European scene.

John Carew has managed to convert chances into goals for domestic champions-elect Rosenborg, whereas Molde's Andreas Lund has mostly seen his efforts go agonisingly close. He finally was rewarded with his first Champions League goal, against Olympiakos.

The 24-year-old Lund, who is on course to finish top scorer in the domestic elite division this season after amassing 19 goals in 23 games, has started to fulfil the potential that made him a target for English clubs a couple of seasons ago.

Carew, 20, who left Valerenga for Rosenborg during the summer, has revelled in a change of environment. "In this club I'm no different to any other player," he says. "At Valerenga too much was expected from me."

Carew scored twice in the 2-2 Champions League draw with Feyenoord and national coach Nils Johan Semb said: "I've never seen John play so well."

Viking, who celebrate their 100th anniversary this year, pulled off a real surprise in the UEFA Cup by beating Sporting Lisbon 3-1 on aggregate.

Sigurd Odegaard

Striking power...John Carew

FINLAND

HJK's nine-game record

HJK have the upper hand in the League title race and recently equalled the Finnish League record of nine consecutive wins.

Whatever happens, they will have a new coach next season, with Jyrki Heliskoski returning to the club which he took to the title three times in the 1980s. He replaces Antti Muurinen, recently named national team boss.

Pentti Hietanen

Pro-file Patrick Muller

Talented Swiss on the road to riches

JUNE 6, 1998, was a red letter day in the young life of Servette's 22-year-old midfielder, Patrick Muller. He was brought on as a substitute in the 78th minute of a friendly against Yugoslavia in Basle, and scored a superb goal five minutes later.

The visitors were leading 1-0 when Muller netted with a scorching long-range drive. An interested observer was Vinicio Floranelli, an Italian agent and confidante of the Juventus hierarchy who was only there to watch Juve's Yugoslavian defender Zoran Mirkovic.

"I had never seen or heard of Patrick Muller before that day," he said. "I was so excited. I sensed I was seeing a youngster of exceptional quality and huge promise."

Four weeks later, on July 2, came a call from Italy's Old Lady.

"I thought someone was pulling my leg," Muller said later. "I just could not believe a club like Juventus could be interested in me."

Eight days later, Muller – whose contract with Servette ran out at the end of 1998 – signed a five-year deal with Juventus.

"One gets the chance of a transfer to a club with the reputation of Juventus only once in a lifetime. I had to take it. Only the future will show whether I made the right decision," Muller said.

But he also knew that in order to ensure match practice he would be loaned to other clubs, and three months after he went on the Juventus payroll, he was 'borrowed' by Swiss champions Grasshopper.

But then in August Grasshopper went one better and bought out Muller's contract with Juventus for £2.2million – to the chagrin of Servette, who were also intending to bid for his return. Servette had collected £1.2m for him from Juventus a few months earlier.

Muller started his career as a junior with minor league side FC Meyrin and was trained for 10 years by Francois Vogel together with boyhood friend Johann, Vogel's son.

While Johann moved to Zurich at 14 to join Grasshopper, Patrick stayed in Geneva and finished his studies in deference to his parent's wishes. His progress greatly helped by Gerard Castella, former FC Meyrin and current Servette coach, Muller joined Servette in 1995 and made his debut in the First Division, aged 18.

Muller and Johann Vogel played for the first time as international team-mates against Northern Ireland in Belfast last year.

Francois Vogel must have been smiling with pride as a long-cherished dream came true.

Ivar von Rulach

Fact file

Club Grasshopper
Country Switzerland
Born December 17, 1976
Previous clubs FC Meyrin (as junior), Servette, Juventus (Ita)
International debut April 1998, v Northern Ireland
International caps 13 (1 gl)

Hagi highlights the problems

In control...but veteran Hagi is at odds with the pace of the game

TURKEY

GHEORGHE HAGI's highs and lows showed the difference between Turkish football and the wider European game in the space of a few days. Hagi is the leading scorer in the Turkish League with four goals after four games for Galatasaray. But in the Champions League he did so badly in Milan that he was withdrawn from the action before half-time.

Romanian Hagi is now 34 and has been a professional for more than half his life. There is no doubting his ability as a creator and as a chance-taker but the pace of the modern game is now leaving him behind.

Gala conceded two goals in two minutes in successive Champions League matches, first in a 2-2 draw with Hertha Berlin, when Hagi's late penalty earned a point, and then in Milan, where they lost 2-1.

In the League, Fenerbahce led with 10 points, but their coach Ridvan Dilmen quit after the club were knocked out of the UEFA Cup by MTK of Hungary.

The national team won 3-0 in Northern Ireland in a Euro 2000 qualifier, thanks to a hat-trick by Gala's Arif Erdem, but then were held 1-1 by Moldova. This shock result left Turkey needing to beat Germany in Munich if they were to qualify automatically for the finals.

Work to restore the country after the earthquake continues, with various matches being played to raise funds for the victims. Sakaryaspor, relegated to Division Two last season, have taken an enforced break because their ground has been badly damaged and several players have lost their homes. The entire squad is said to be suffering mental health problems as a result of the disaster.

Hasan Cemali

SLOVENIA

At last - soccer gets a grip

THIS LAND of skiing, ice hockey, athletics and basketball has discovered soccer. At last!

Slovenians are now proudly pointing out that their footballers have become a strong force in Europe.

Optimism is based on a strong showing in the Euro 2000 qualifiers, plus Maribor Teatanic's arrival in the Champions League. Their 1-0 win over Dynamo in Kyiv was watched on closed-circuit TV at their own ground, and around 5,000 turned up to welcome the plane home.

The next match was a 2-0 home defeat by Bayer Leverkusen, despite Maribor playing defensively, with only one man up front. "Every point earned is important for us, financially and as moral support," said Maribor president Joze Jagodnik.

At home, the club are still untouchable, with eight wins in a row.

Olimpija Ljubljana's glory days are long gone. They were the strongest Slovenian club in the old Yugoslavian League, but have done little since. Even so, a 6-0 defeat by Primorje was a nasty shock.

Zdravko Reic

GREECE

AEK stadium wrecked by earthquake

THE League got off to a fitful start after a week's delay due to problems caused by the earthquake in the Athens area, which left 143 dead, several hundred injured and up to 100,000 homeless.

AEK's 69-year-old Nikos Goumas stadium was unfit for use after the quake and will be torn down.

"We were not ready to accept one fan in the stadium unless it was 100 per cent safe – we are not going to play with human lives," said AEK managing director Petros Stathis.

Until the new stadium is built, AEK are likely to play home matches at Karaiskaki and the Olympic stadium, which escaped with minor damage.

Lou Economopoulos

YUGOSLAVIA

All three fail in Europe

ALL THREE Yugoslav clubs already are out of Europe. Partizan Belgrade, who failed to qualify for the Champions League (losing 2-0 and 3-1 against Moscow Spartak), went out of the UEFA Cup to Leeds United, while Red Star failed against Montpellier ad Vojvodina Novi Sad fell to Slavia Prague.

While it was further proof of the mediocre level in the domestic League, it also has to be stressed that all three clubs were given the huge handicap of having to play their home fixtures at neutral venues. UEFA imposed this situation in the light of the European Union's air-traffic embargo on Belgrade.

Vladimir Novak

MALTA

No points, but hope

A 3-2 HOME defeat by the Republic of Ireland brought down the curtain on Malta's Euro 2000 venture.

Not a point gained from eight games, only six goals for and 27 against were the sad facts but Malta can look forward with a certain amount of optimism after their last two positive outings, in which the team showed signs of improvement.

A plucky display in Zagreb almost upset Croatia. The Croats won 2-1 but the Maltese players walked off with heads held high.

Two weeks later the improvement was confirmed, despite the defeat by the Irish. Josif Ilic's men came back from two down, before conceding a winner to Steve Staunton.

On the domestic front, Birkirkara led by three points after five games.

Domenico Aquilina

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

Faruk goes part-time

THE COMPLEXITIES of being coach to the national team eventually got too much for Dzemaludin Musovic, who quit and took a job in Qatar.

Just how unattractive the post is was emphasised when the FA offered it in turn to three men of different nationalities, all of whom rejected it: Ivica Osim, a Croat, with Sturm Graz; Dusan Bayevic, a Serb, at Olympiakos; and Safet Susic, a Muslim, of Istanbulspor. The FA eventually found a taker – Faruk Hadzibegic, who lives in Paris and will visit Sarajevo only for matches. "There will be no really national team until we have a united league," he said.

Zdravko Reic

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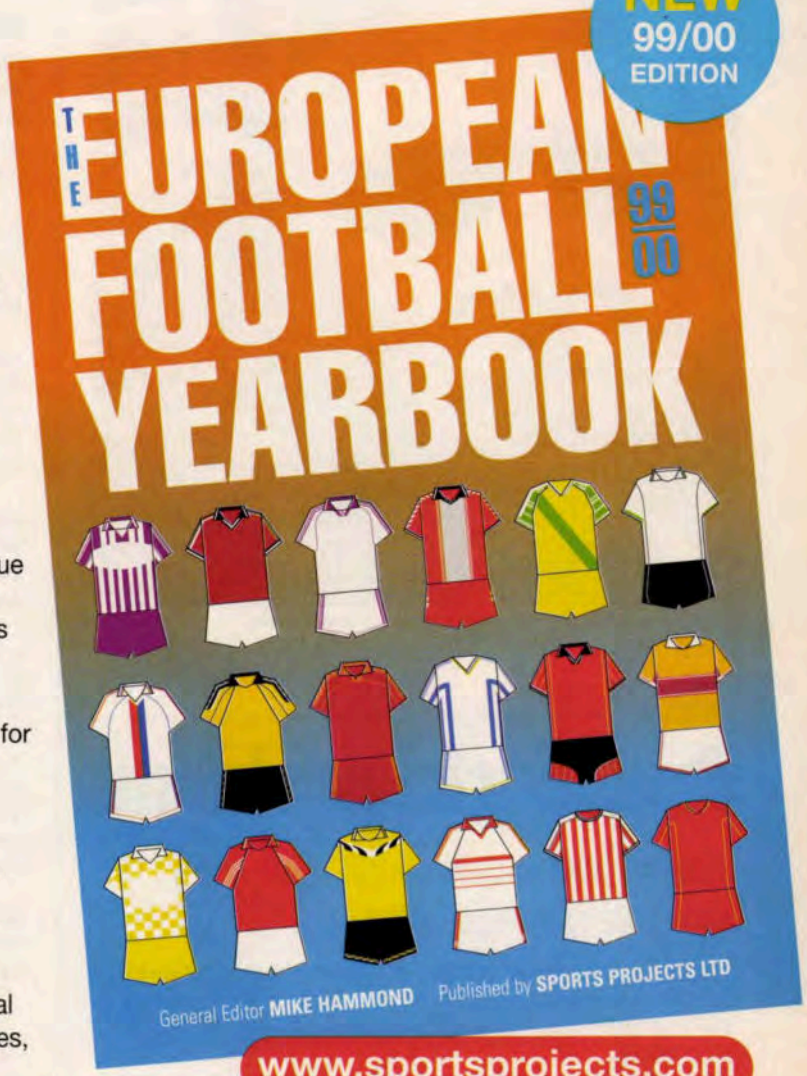

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Heated debate...FC Croatia's Robert Prosinecki

CROATIA

Prosinecki problems

Zdravko Reic in Split on the controversy surrounding a national hero

BUSINESS is very much as usual in this country. FC Croatia Zagreb lead the table, Hajduk and Osijek are chasing, and it is hard to imagine anything changing unless FC Croatia – champions for the past four years – slip up.

But one thing is upsetting their stability, and that is Robert Prosinecki, now back in his native country after a glittering career with Red Star, Real Madrid, Barcelona, and others.

Prosinecki has been a national hero ever since he opted to play for Croatia rather than Yugoslavia – he is of mixed nationality – and his stature increased during the 1998 World Cup, when he helped his team to reach the semi-finals.

He captained FC Croatia in the recent surprise draw away to Manchester United in the Champions League, but during the match he was criticised by a TV commentator, Zdravko Jurcic, who told viewers: "He is obstructing his team's play. He's an old-timer. Croatia play much better without him."

This created a massive debate, with most of the country opposing Jurcic – who has never worked for a football club in any capacity, although he has coached individual players (usually the sons of ambitious parents).

Prosinecki, who is only 31, thought that Jurcic was merely expressing the opinion held by national coach Miroslav Blazevic. The pair do not see eye to eye, and Prosinecki says: "Blazevic is the reason for my absence from the national team. A long time ago he said he would eat his diploma if ever I became a player, and now he's jealous of my success."

Although Prosinecki was widely praised in the media after the Manchester game, coach Osvaldo Ardiles was again criticised for his negative tactics, and came under more fire after the home match against Marseille – a 2-1 defeat – when he was called a coward.

Ardiles, defiant as ever, says: "We'll qualify for the next stage. We'll beat Sturm twice, then Manchester in Zagreb and Olympic in Marseille." A 3-0 win over Sturm duly followed...and so there are only three more needed.

POLAND

Smuda switches to a new challenge

UNRATED Polonia Warsaw unexpectedly led the table with 23 points after 10 games, one point ahead of Ruch Chorzow, the only unbeaten team.

Polonia were champions in 1946 and won the Polish Cup in 1952. They then played more than 40 years in lower divisions, but now dream about a second title.

The team have incurred more bookings than any other in the First Division, but coach Dariusz Wdowczyk said: "We are not brutal. We play aggressive football and the others do not like it."

Wdowczyk, now 37, formerly played for Celtic and Reading before returning to Poland in 1998 and earning a reputation as one of the most promising Polish coaches.

His team went top thanks to a 3-2 away win over Wisla Krakow, last season's champions. The Wisla coach, Franciszek Smuda, resigned – even though his team were third – promptly took over Legia Warsaw, and began with a 5-0 victory over Groclin. "The championship challenge starts now," he said.

Smuda won the title with Widzew Lodz in 1996 and 1997 and with Wisla in 1999. Seventh-placed Legia have eight points fewer than Polonia.

Dariusz Kurowski

MACEDONIA

New men at the top

THE Macedonian FA has a new president and has also appointed a new national coach.

Lambe Arnaudov, a deputy minister for the economy in the leading government party, VMRO-DPMNE, was appointed FA president after UEFA had intervened to settle a long-running dispute.

Dragan Kanatlarovski, coach of the Pobeda Prilep club, is the new national coach. He called up veteran Toni Savevski (AEK Athens) and forgotten Zoran Jovanovski from Helsingborgs for the crucial games with Yugoslavia in Belgrade and Skopje, but both were lost.

In the national championship, Sloga Jugomagnat and FCU 55 (formerly Cementarnica) are still undefeated.

Michel Stojmanovski

MOLDOVA

National coach quits

IVAN DANILYANTS has resigned as national coach after a string of disappointing results.

Under Danilyants, Moldova won two of 13 games. Alexandru Matsura, Danilyants' assistant

Moving...Franciszek Smuda

and Under-21 coach, is favourite to take over.

Young Moldavians are being checked by European clubs. There is special interest in 23-year-old playmaker Serghey Epureanu and 20-year-old striker Victor Berco.

Miron Goihman

BULGARIA

The usual pattern is seen once again

HALFWAY through the autumn campaign, leaders Levski had a minor setback against their bitter rivals of the last two seasons, FC Lovech, now bereft of their Litex sponsor.

Provincial upstarts Lovech halted Levski's run of seven successive wins by holding them to a 1-1 draw. Nonetheless, Levski retained a one-point lead over a revived CSKA.

Despite two goals on Tyneside and even pegging Newcastle back to 2-1 on aggregate after 29 minutes of their UEFA Cup second leg, CSKA had too much ground to make up from the game in Sofia to have a realistic chance of joining Levski in round two.

Levski drew 0-0 away to Hajduk Split and proved too good at home in the return leg. Now Juventus await the country's only representatives left in European competition.

● Hristo Stoichkov has been appointed as an unpaid assistant to national coach Dimitar Dimitrov.

Bob Vaughan

HUNGARY

MTK salvage some consolation

THREE clubs were in action in round one of the UEFA Cup, but only MTK, who 'stepped down' from the Champions League after a preliminary round defeat by Croatia Zagreb, progressed to the next round.

A 2-0 victory on the Bosphorus against Fenerbahce earned MTK the reward of a tie against AEK Athens.

Debrecen failed to make any headway against Germans Wolfsburg, while Ferencvaros lost to Teplice.

A successful joint bid with Austria to host Euro 2004 is the news the game needs in Central Europe, to boost spirits after years of decline.

Bob Vaughan

CZECH REP

Sparta sharp enough to succeed

WITH the national team already qualified for Euro 2000 and only a last hurrah to come against the Faroe Isles, interest switched to Sparta in the Champions League.

Siegl's missed penalty at the Letna let Bordeaux off the hook, and squandered chances away to Moscow Spartak meant only two points on the board when arguably the weakest team in Group G, Willem II, visited Prague.

High prices kept the crowd down to just 10,000, but they were treated to four goals from the home side.

Bob Vaughan

SLOVAKIA

Inter help to lift the gloom

THE doom and gloom following the heavy defeat by Romania in Bratislava was lifted by one success out of two in the Austro-Slovak clashes in the UEFA Cup.

Inter's first leg win in Bratislava against Rapid looked promising, but nobody expected a win in Vienna!

Like most clubs in the Slovak League, life for Inter is tense. Sponsors are difficult to find and next summer seven sides will be relegated with only one promoted from Division Two.

Gates are the lowest ever. People cannot afford theatre, film, sport or even newspapers, especially outside Bratislava. The outlook is grim.

Bob Vaughan

ROMANIA

Dinamo continue to dominate

THE League started early to help the preparation necessary for Euro 2000, and Dinamo continued to dominate. The home 3-1 defeat of Brasov was their 10th win on the trot and opened a five-point lead over Arges Pitesti.

Dinamo are free to concentrate on the League after they went down 2-1 on aggregate to Benfica in the UEFA Cup.

Rapid and Steaua, fourth and fifth, are not yet out of contention. Steaua are still involved in the UEFA Cup, where they face West Ham, but Rapid lack the consistent form which made them champions last term.

Former European qualifiers U Craiova are surprisingly bottom, but their cross-town rivals, Excelsior, are only two points better off.

Bob Vaughan

Euro blow...CSKA went down to Newcastle in the UEFA Cup

Pro-file Alexander Kolinko

Skonto keeper keeping up the Baltic tradition

BALTIC state goalkeeping imports are in vogue. Estonia's Mart Poom has established himself at Derby County in the Premiership; the Lithuanian Gintaras Stauce was voted Germany's best keeper last season for his displays with MSV Duisburg; and now the impressive Latvian and Skonto Riga custodian Alexander Kolinko appears bound for one of the major European leagues.

Kolinko, a 25-year-old of Ukrainian extraction, has certainly excelled in the self-promotion stakes over the past few months. A match-winning display in Latvia's shock 2-1 win away to Greece in a Euro 2000 tie last June was followed by an impressive performance in the Champions League. Even though Skonto lost 3-0 on aggregate to Chelsea in the third qualifying round, the young keeper often caught the eye with his commanding presence, athleticism and sharp reflexes.

Kolinko was born and brought up in the Latvian capital Riga and began his soccer career in 1992 with Interskonto (later renamed Skonto Metals), the reserve side of the republic's dominant club, Skonto Riga.

After three promising years between Interskonto's posts, he was recalled to Skonto Riga to serve as understudy to Latvian international keeper Raimonds Laizans. Kolinko's star was clearly on the rise. In some 20 games for the Latvian Under-21 side, he had produced a succession of fine performances – the only low point being a red-card for retaliation in a game in Scotland – and he was one of the stars of the 1997 CIS Cup in Moscow, the indoor tournament for the champions of the 15 former Soviet states.

In July 1997, Kolinko made his full international debut against Estonia and then rival Laizans moved to Russian football. Kolinko could now regard himself as Skonto's undisputed first choice.

Fate, however, would dictate otherwise. A serious knee injury in the spring of 1998 forced Kolinko on to the sidelines. This year, though, has proved altogether more rewarding for a fit-again Kolinko. In June, he was recalled by Latvia for a Euro 2000 double-header and secured his position as national team number one with outstanding performances in both the 2-1 home defeat against Slovenia and a great 2-1 win in Greece.

"I didn't play badly," said Kolinko in a moment of sweeping understatement. "It was a night when I was just full of confidence."

Like his idol Peter Schmeichel – another with Baltic blood – Alexander Kolinko looks more than qualified to make the grade in the West.

Valery Karpushkin

Fact file

Club Skonto Riga
Country Latvia
Born June 18, 1974, in Riga
Previous clubs Interskonto (later renamed Skonto Metals), Skonto Riga
International debut July 1997, v Estonia
International caps 8
Honours Latvian League 1996, 1997, 1998; Latvian Cup 1997, 1998

Monkey business

Brian Homewood on the bizarre reason why Edmundo's 'good boy' image did not last long

BRAZIL

EDMUNDO's attempt to steer clear of controversy has been undermined by the unlikely combination of his toddler son, a chimpanzee and a glass of beer.

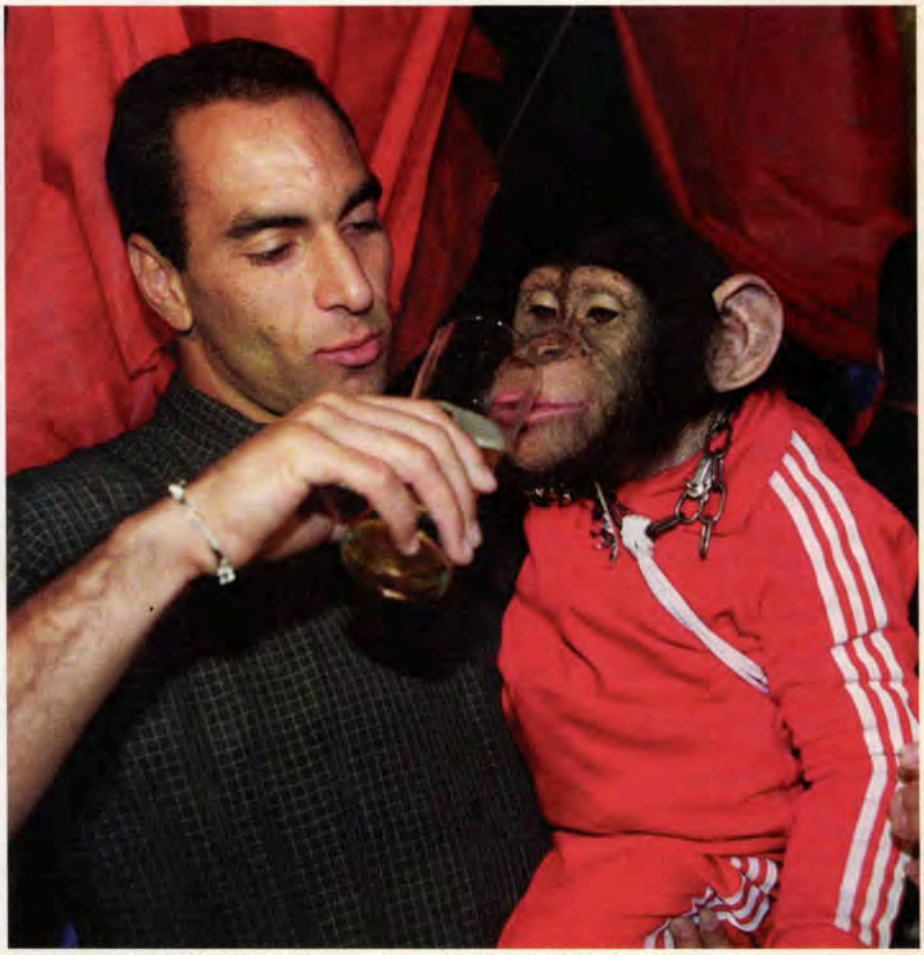
A day that began as a double celebration of his two-goal performance for Vasco da Gama against Corinthians and his son's first birthday ended in yet another headache for the controversial forward.

Edmundo's latest troubles started when he decided to hire a circus, complete with chimpanzees, elephants and clowns wearing Flamengo shirts (Vasco's arch-rivals), for Edmundo Junior's birthday at his home in a plush Rio de Janeiro condominium. Team-mates, other footballers and celebrities took their children to the party, held in a circus tent erected in Edmundo's back garden and opened to the media. Only the two elephants, too big to get into the garden, had to stay outside.

At one stage, Edmundo picked up a chimpanzee and gave it a cuddle. Then, as a joke, he gave it a sip from a glass of beer. Pictures of this appeared in newspapers and on television the next day, with some reports claiming the ape had been too drunk to perform for the circus in the evening.

Sharp-eyed officials from Ibama, the Brazilian government's environmental agency, picked up the reports and announced that giving alcohol to a wild animal was a crime for which Edmundo, already in trouble with the law over a fatal car crash in 1995, could be fined up to £700.

The player was not impressed. "I like to work but there are some people who don't," he said. "There are people who sit at home waiting for a chance to appear in public at the expense of others, or to disturb somebody else's life."



Drink problem...offering a chimp beer landed Edmundo in hot water

Certainly Ibama, which is desperately short of cash, would seem to have other priorities in a country where huge swathes of forest are hacked down every year and where there is a thriving illegal trade in wild animals kept in appalling conditions. On the other hand, you have to ask: will Edmundo ever learn? He simply seems to attract trouble.

Until this latest storm, he had been largely successful in his efforts to turn over a new leaf after returning from his unhappy spell at Fiorentina. Gone were the days, it seemed, when he smashed television cameras, made racist remarks about referees and got red cards galore.

Since returning to his beloved Rio, Edmundo had kept cool on the field despite the best efforts of Brazil's most violent defenders to provoke him into getting sent off, and he refused to be drawn into a slanging match with Wanderley Luxemburgo, the coach who repeatedly has left him out of the national team.

In the game away at Corinthians, the national championship leaders, Edmundo proved, once again, that on his day he can outdo Ronaldo. He set up two goals and scored two as he led Vasco to a 4-2 win. As captain, he never stopped motivating his young and below-strength side.

Edmundo always has been one of those players who thrives in adversity and he quickly forgot his problems to score twice more in a 2-0 win over Internacional the following Sunday.

This lifted Vasco to fourth in the championship with 22 points from 11 games and an excellent chance of making the last eight. As last year, the 22 teams play each other once in the first stage, with the top eight going into the quarter-finals.

Leaders at just after the halfway mark in the qualifying stage were Corinthians and Flamengo, for whom Romario has been enjoying a revival with nine goals in 12 games – despite yet another row with the club over training. He insisted he had an agreement that allowed him to miss any training sessions held on the day after a game, but the club disagreed.

Like Edmundo, Romario has been consistently overlooked by Brazil since Luxemburgo took charge, and he was again absent when the squad for October's friendly in Holland was announced.

Libertadores Cup holders Palmeiras made a stuttering start before climbing into the top eight, helped on their way by a 4-1 away demolition of Corinthians. This was the first meeting of the two since their Paulista Final in June, which was abandoned in the 76th minute after a massive brawl between the players.

This time nobody was sent off, though there was plenty of nastiness, especially when Corinthians captain Freddy Rincon spat in the face of Palmeiras forward Paulo Nunes. Rincon later said Nunes had made racist remarks, which he denied, but Nunes was in the news again when he became the seventh player to be kidnapped in Sao Paulo inside two years. He was later released unharmed, but minus his car and other valuables.

Gama, the first team from the capital, Brasilia, to play in the First Division since 1986, surprised everyone as they climbed out of the danger zone to reach

11th place with a 2-1 win away to Sao Paulo. Manager Claudio Duarte went on record as saying that his profession involved setting examples for the players – then immediately abandoned ship to join Gremio.

Teams featuring near the foot of the table include Portuguesa, Internacional and Botafogo. Portuguesa, under former Brazil coach Mario Zagallo, lay 20th having failed to win for seven consecutive games. A 1-0 defeat by Corinthians ended the team's slim chances of reaching the quarter-finals and Zagallo was consequently fired. However, Portuguesa are in no danger of going down, thanks to an excellent performance last year – relegation is decided on an average obtained over the last two championships.

Internacional were also in trouble, with 35-year-old captain Dunga visibly slowing up, and Botafogo, champions only four years ago, appeared doomed with only one win in 13 outings. They were already on to their third coach, having sacked Mauro Fernandes and then 1970 World Cup captain Carlos Alberto Torres. He was called up for his third stint as coach of the club, only to be sacked for the third time after five straight defeats in 28 days.

Botafogo directors, however, were still optimistic that the club would stay in the top flight, though not because of their efforts on the pitch. They were proposing a breakaway league for next year in which 16 of the biggest clubs, including Botafogo, would have permanent status in the top flight.

Miranda's protest leads to a ban

THE CBF has finally stirred and decided to do something about the absurd amount of violence in the Brazilian championship.

The final straw appeared to be the pitch invasion led by our old friend Eurico Miranda which caused the Vasco da Gama-Parana match to be abandoned in the 88th minute.

Vasco vice-president Miranda, furious at seeing three of his team's players sent off, stormed on to the field accompanied by an army of club 'security men' and a horde of radio reporters. Faced by this motley crew, referee Paulo Cesar Olivieira had no hesitation in abandoning the game at 1-1.

Only five days earlier, the Atletico Mineiro-Vitoria match had been interrupted for 10 minutes by a brawl which started when Vitoria goalkeeper Fabio Costa refused to give the ball back after conceding a goal. Fighting resumed at the end of play and spread to the terraces.

In addition to these incidents, the vast majority of matches had been mere kicking contests, with 60, 70 or, in the case of the Guarani-Ponte Preta game, 105 fouls. Refereeing was generally laughable, with officials ignoring ferocious tackles and awarding penalties for the most blatant of dives.

Sergio Zveiter, head of the CBF's disciplinary tribunal, at last decided to hand out an unprecedented package of punishment, using video evidence in the many cases where referees had omitted to mention the incidents in their reports.

Miranda was suspended for 30 days, and three grounds were banned from staging games for a month – Vasco da Gama's Sao Januario, Atletico Mineiro's Independencia and Botafogo's Caio Martins.

Four players involved in one rumpus, Lincoln and Galvan (Atletico) and Otacilio and Fabio Costa (Vitoria) also were suspended for 30 days, though Zveiter said all sanctions were provisional until full hearings by the CBF.

Miranda remained defiant. "I'd invade the pitch again if it was necessary," he said. He had given an interesting insight into the way the minds of Brazilian directors work after stopping the Parana game, saying he was trying to save the referee from being lynched by Vasco fans in the stadium, which local journalists said had been filled beyond capacity.

The Vasco vice-president claimed the referee was "irresponsible" for sending off three players from the home team even though at least two of the red cards were justified. Miranda also hinted that clubs from Sao Paulo were receiving favourable treatment in the championship, and admitted he did not like Sao Paulo. "There's no beach, the air is polluted and the women in Rio are better," he said.

Brian Homewood

Pro-file Jose Luis Sierra

Copa America hero with his eye on 2002

MANY thought that Jose Luis Sierra's time in a Chile shirt would be over before France 98. Instead, he chose the game's biggest stage to play some of the best football of his career.

Then some said he wouldn't make it to this year's Copa America. But though Sierra started on the bench, he was soon brought into play and his left-footed artistry helped Chile to a fourth-place finish in the tournament.

So it would be unwise to write off the midfielder's chances of making it to the next World Cup, and Sierra is enthusiastic at the prospect. "We've got a good group of players," he says, "and I think we can do as well or even better than last time."

It was Brazil who ended Chile's dreams at the 1998 finals, with a 4-1 second round win in Paris. "After we gave them three goals from set pieces in the first half, there was no way back for us," Sierra recalls. "Even so, I look back on the World Cup as a good experience. It was great for me to match myself against the world's best, and I also have the memory of scoring an important goal" – a delightful free-kick against Cameroon which ensured Chile's qualification from the group stage. "It was the first time we'd ever made it so far outside our own country, so it was excellent for Chilean football. It's something that will help us to qualify this time."

The fact that Chile could hold their own in France could end an old tradition: formidable at home, poor away. Sierra's club career also follows the pattern. He had short spells in Spain, Brazil and Mexico, but his best club performances have been reserved for Santiago.

With such international experience, he is well positioned to judge the state of the game in Chile. Many argue that its problems are in the head, that it is dominated by old ideas. Sierra sees more material causes. "The main thing we lack," he says, "is better working conditions. The pitches are bad, we don't have enough good stadiums, the clubs are in financial difficulties and often don't pay the players on time – all this has an influence."

A sign that Chile could rise above such problems was their 2-0 win away to England in February 1998. "It's a wonderful memory for me," he confirms. "It's never easy to win at Wembley, but I played well, and crowned my display with a long pass for Salas to score."

It was one of the finest goals the stadium has seen. A few more of those would come in very useful in Chile's bid to make it through to 2002.

Tim Vickery

Fact file

Club Colo Colo
Country Chile
Born December 5, 1968, in Santiago
Previous clubs Union Espanola, Valladolid (Spa), Union Espanola, Sao Paulo (Bra), Colo Colo, Tigres (Mex)
International caps 37 (5 gls)
Honours Chilean Championship 1996, 1997 (Colo Colo); Chilean Cup 1992, 1993 (Union Espanola)

River Plate's new hope...17-year-old Javier Saviola

Kids keep River running

ARGENTINA

RIVER PLATE have sold several top players in recent months, but they keep finding replacements. They were joint leaders of the opening championship after seven games, thanks mainly to Javier Saviola, who is only 17, and Pablo Aimmar, who is 20. In addition to making the team tick, the pair have shared more than half the goals scored as River won five and drew two of their games.

San Lorenzo had an identical record, but title-holders Boca Juniors – unbeaten at home in 25 matches – were three points behind after their first defeat, 3-1 at Velez Sarsfield. Racing Club were the third unbeaten team, with two wins and five draws. They have been declared bankrupt, but given permission to play until the end of the year. Their neighbours, Independiente, have replaced coach Lesar Menotti with a former international, Enzo Trossero.

Jose Luis Chilavert, Velez Sarsfield's goalscoring goalkeeper, claimed his 10th League goal from a free-kick when he scored from 30 metres in a 2-0 defeat of Argentinos Juniors.

Next year's Libertadores Cup is to include four clubs from Argentina. Boca Juniors and River Plate have qualified already, and they are to be joined by the two other clubs taking the most points from the last three League tournaments. San Lorenzo and Gimnasia y Esgrima de La Plata are the current leaders.

Eric Weil

MERCOSUR CUP

'Super League' still fails to catch on

THE Mercosur Cup, a sort of Super League for leading clubs from countries in the Mercosur trading block, is now in its second year but is still not catching the public interest, despite big money on offer.

Although clubs were warned that they would not be invited back next year if they fielded below-strength teams this time, quite a number are ignoring the warning. And in spite of the fact that many clubs are treating the competition lightly, there still have been some unwanted incidents.

The Group B match between Argentina's Velez Sarsfield and Independiente was suspended at half-time after a smoke bomb injured the Velez goalkeeper, Jose Luis Chilavert. The game resumed later behind closed doors, and the 1-1 result left both teams out of the running for a place in the last eight – to comprise the five group winners and the three second-placed clubs with the best records.

Fans also tried to attack referees at two grounds, and both were closed for three games. On Asuncion, Paraguayan fans were angry that play was allowed to go on until Brazil's Vasco da Gama equalised. In Rio, the Vasco supporters were upset when their team had a goal disallowed in the 1-1 draw with Uruguay's Penarol.

WORLD CUP 2002 QUALIFYING

Brazil on tour - in Brazil

FIXTURES for the South American qualifying zone in the 2002 World Cup have been drawn up, with Brazil immediately announcing that they will play their nine home games at seven venues, in order to show the national team to as many fans as possible in that huge country.

Bolivia, in contrast, will play all home games in La Paz, 3,600 metres above sea level. This is thought to give them an advantage, but their Argentinian coach, Hector Veira, points out that players from the country's lower regions also have difficulty adapting to altitude, just as visitors do. So he intends to field two teams – one at home and the other away.

The qualifying competition involves all 10 South American countries, and will last from March 28 next year to November 14, 2001.

IN BRIEF

Olimpia handed two-year ban

THE **PARAGUAYAN** FA has suspended Olimpia from participating in international tournaments for two years. The action was taken after Olimpia started a lawsuit against the FA following a dispute over the division of the transfer fee they received from Bayern Munich for Roque Santa Cruz.

Sergio Markarian, a Paraguayan, has been appointed national coach.

In **PERU**, one fan was killed and several injured in incidents before and after a 0-0 draw in the derby between Alianza and Universitario.

Alianza are clear leaders in the closing championship, with Universitario third, seven points back.

Sporting Cristal, another point away in fourth, have taken on Juan Carlos Oblitas, until recently coach of the national team, for the third time. He replaces Rodolfo Motta and becomes the club's sixth coach in two years.

In **BOLIVIA**, Victor Antelo is the League's top scorer with eight goals in eight games for the champions, Blooming.

In **CHILE**, Universidad de Chile are unbeaten in 25 games and qualified for the top-eight title play-offs with three matches to spare. They almost lost their record in the 22nd game, equalising in the last minute against Universidad Catolica.

Why Pele did not play

PELE, who played in the World Cups of 1958, 1962, 1966 and 1970, has at last revealed why he did not compete in the 1974 event.

He was still worth his place, at 34, but had rejected the chance to join the squad. Now, in a TV interview, he admits that his decision was in protest against the torture of fellow Brazilians by the then ruling military government. "They tried to force me, but I resisted," he said.

When asked why he had played in 1966 and 1970, when the same rulers were in power, he replied: "I didn't know what was going on then."

Mario Zagallo, coach to the 1974 team, confirmed the story.

Brazil, holders of the World Cup after their superb performances in 1970, reached the last eight four years later but lost to Holland, the eventual beaten finalists. Whether Pele would have made a difference is a topic that has long been debated in Brazil.

Eric Weil

CONCACAF takes on a new title

Paul Gardner reports on the long-awaited confederation name change

Champions of the confederation...Necaxa celebrate victory in the CONCACAF Champions Cup

THE 38-member North, Central American and Caribbean Association Football Confederation had a problem with its title: too long-winded. It had another problem with its acronym, CONCACAF: ugly, and nobody knew what it meant.

When Jack Warner took over as president in 1990, one of the first things he tackled was CONCACAF's image. He decided that a new name was needed. It's only taken nine years. But now we have one, and a new logo as well. New name: The Football Confederation.

"We thought it was time to make a change," says Warner, "to present a more vibrant and modern image to a part of the world that is making such headway in the game."

To which general secretary Chuck Blazer added: "We've taken the two most important words of our full title. The new name is easier to say and easier to understand."

Shorter, certainly – but a bit non-specific. Football and confederation happen to be the two most important words in the titles of all the confederations. A new acronym, TFC, seems to be on its way.

For the moment, the old acronym evidently lives on. Press releases headed Football Confederation have been telling us about a competition...the CONCACAF Champions Cup.

This was played in Las Vegas, of all places, and featured eight teams from the CONCACAF region. The idea did not work out; attendances were disappointing, ranging from 6,000 to 10,000 according to the official figures, about half that claimed neutral observers.

The opening game went according to expectations when US champions Chicago Fire dominated Trinidad's Joe Public, and only a spectacular evening's work by Joe's goalkeeper, Donovan Thomas, limited the Fire to a 2-0 win.

The 1-0 victory by Costa Rica's Alajuela over Mexican champions Toluca, the tournament favourites, was definitely not according to plan. And on the following night, USA's DC United made hard work of beating Olimpia of Honduras 1-0.

Another Mexico-Costa Rica confrontation followed, and Necaxa (the winter champions of Mexico's two-part championship) restored some Mexican pride by beating Saprissa 3-2.

The semi-finals spelled disaster for the Americans. After DC United had taken a 26th-minute lead through Carey Talley, keeper Tom Presthus committed two bad errors, both of which resulted in Necaxa goals. Agustin Delgado added a third for the final 3-1 scoreline.

Surprise team Alajuela continued their upstart activities against Chicago Fire, taking a 1-0 lead in the 22nd minute through Wilson Munoz before Roman Kosecki levelled the score with a free-kick in the 38th minute.

The only miss in the penalty shoot-out came from Chicago's Czech defender Lubos Kubik, who skied the ball over and gave Alajuela the victory.

In an action-filled Final, played in blistering 101 degree heat, Alajuela got on the scoreboard first when Slovakian striker Josef Miso scored from the spot after he had been fouled. Necaxa's Ecuadorian international Alex Aguinaga tied the game at the beginning of the second half with a spectacular flying scissor-kick from 10 yards out.

The Costa Ricans got their second penalty in the 57th minute. Miso again took the kick, but this time Hugo Pineda made the crucial save. Eight minutes later, with his team down to 10 men, Necaxa's Sergio Vasquez slammed home the winner after a series of ricochets around the area.

Necaxa pocketed £50,000, with £40,000 going to Alajuela. But Necaxa's biggest reward was a place in January's World Club Championship.

MEXICO

Baron the first of four out of a job

FOUR coaches are out of a job as the end of the 1999 Winter League draws near.

First, Miguel Mijea Baron was unable to lift Tigres UNL from last place in their group, despite having invested a fortune on players such as Luis Hernandez and Ramon Ramirez.

Second, Carlos Bracamontes, who won promotion with Union de Curtidores, a club whose franchise was then sold in order to keep Puebla in the First Division.

Third, Albert Guerra, who resigned from Toros Neza after a 6-1 home defeat by champions Toluca. Low morale among the squad is due to the absurd tolerance shown by club officials towards Bebeto, who has only a single goal to his name.

Fourth, Jose Mari Bakero, the former Barcelona star, who could not keep Puebla away from the threat of a second successive demotion.

One of the dangers of having leagues with only a few members is that half the teams are fighting against relegation while the other half are scrapping to get into the play-offs. Many games have surprise results, and the average of more than three goals a match reflects the open type of football we are seeing.

Three strikers are battling for the title of top shot. Pedro Pineda of Monterrey, once courted by Milan, has scored nine times, Cuauhtemoc Blanco of America seven, and Jared Morgetti of Santos six.

Carlos Ramirez

Nigeria facing home test of character

Mark Gleeson on the draw for the 2000 Nations Cup finals

HOSTS Nigeria will have to go through a tough test in the opening round of next year's African Nations Cup finals. They have an exceedingly difficult draw, against fellow World Cup finalists Morocco and Tunisia, and could quite conceivably of being eliminated before the knockout stage even though they are the top seeds in Group 4, to be played in Lagos.

Co-hosts Ghana also have a testing opening round, with two previous winners, Cameroon and Ivory Coast, in their section.

The two other group seeds got off lightly. Holders Egypt head Group 3, to be based in the northern Nigerian city of Kano, with Burkina Faso, Senegal and Zambia, and South Africa are top seeds in Group 2 with Algeria, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Gabon, all teams they have beaten in the past three years.

Ghana kick off the tournament in Accra against Cameroon, with whom they were paired in the qualifying stages for the 2000 finals before being elevated to hosts, along with Nigeria, in place of Zimbabwe. Ghana won 3-1 in Yaounde to inflict only the second home defeat on the Indomitable Lions in a Nations Cup game.

Each of the four venues hosts a quarter-final, and the semi-finals are to be played in Accra and Lagos on February 10.

The Ghanaian capital gets the third place play-off two days later, and Lagos hosts the Final on February 13.

THE DRAW

Group 1
22.01.00 Ghana v Cameroon (Accra)
24.01.00 Ivory Coast v Togo (Accra)
27.01.00 Ghana v Togo (Accra)
28.01.00 Cameroon v Ivory Coast (Accra)
31.01.00 Ghana v Ivory Coast (Accra)
31.01.00 Cameroon v Togo (Kumasi)

Group 2
23.01.00 Gabon v South Africa (Kumasi)
24.01.00 Algeria v DR Congo (Kumasi)
27.01.00 DR Congo v South Africa (Kumasi)
29.01.00 Algeria v Gabon (Kumasi)
02.02.00 Algeria v South Africa (Kumasi)
02.02.00 DR Congo v Gabon (Accra)

Group 3
23.01.00 Egypt v Zambia (Kano)
25.01.00 Burkina Faso v Senegal (Kano)
28.01.00 Egypt v Senegal (Kano)
29.01.00 Burkina Faso v Zambia (Kano)
01.02.00 Burkina Faso v Egypt (Kano)
01.02.00 Senegal v Zambia (Lagos)

Group 4
23.01.00 Nigeria v Tunisia (Lagos)
25.01.00 Congo v Morocco (Lagos)
28.01.00 Nigeria v Congo (Lagos)
29.01.00 Morocco v Tunisia (Lagos)
03.02.00 Nigeria v Morocco (Lagos)
03.02.00 Congo v Tunisia (Kano)

Quarter-finals
06.02.00 Group 1 winners v Group 2 runners-up (Accra)
06.02.00 Group 2 winners v Group 1 runners-up (Kumasi)
07.02.00 Group 3 winners v Group 4 runners-up (Kano)
07.02.00 Group 4 winners v Group 3 runners-up (Lagos)

Semi-finals
10.02.00 Accra winners v Kumasi winners (Accra)
10.02.00 Lagos winners v Kano winners (Lagos)

Third place play-off
12.02.00 (Accra)

Final
13.02.00 (Lagos)

Goal maker...Quinton Fortune

AFRO-ASIAN NATIONS CUP

Bafana Bafana win 1997 event

THE 1997 edition of the Afro-Asian Nations Cup finals finally finished – two years behind schedule – with South Africa beating Saudi Arabia 1-0 on aggregate.

South Africa and the Saudis won their respective titles in 1996 but Springbok unwillingness to find a space on their calendar for the two-legged event seemed to have put an end to it.

Then the discovery that there is a Saudi Arabian member on the FIFA executive committee that will decide the destiny of the 2006 World Cup finals brought a sudden opening among the congestion of international commitments.

The five previous editions of the event, which started in 1987, produced three wins by African countries and two by Asian.

Pollen Ndlanya scored the only goal of the first leg, heading home in the 48th minute from a cross by Manchester United's Quinton Fortune.

Bafana Bafana should have won by more but did not capitalise on the amount of possession provided by England-based Mark Fish and Eric Tinkler. Both starred despite being unable to hold regular first-team places at Bolton and Barnsley respectively.

The return leg, in the impressive King Fahd stadium in Riyadh, finished scoreless due mainly to Oxford United goalkeeper Andre Arendse. He returned to the South African side after an absence of almost two years, to replace the injured John Tiale – one of seven men from the first leg who were unavailable – and brought off a string of saves, despite having to have his head bandaged after a collision.

South Africa will keep the Afro-Asian trophy for only a few months before Iran and Egypt meet in the 1999 edition, probably in March 2000.

Mark Gleeson

CAF CUP

Holders go out

CAF Cup holders CS Sfaxien are out of this year's tournament, after losing 5-4 on aggregate to fellow Tunisians Etoile Sahel in a seesaw quarter-final.

So Etoile now have a chance to reach their third CAF Cup Final, having won the 1996 edition and finished as runners-up in 1995. However, they still have three former African champions in their way.

Egypt's Zamalek, Canon Yaounde of Cameroon and Wydad Casablanca of Morocco are all through to the last four and seeking to add the CAF Cup to their past success in the continent's top club competition.

Zamalek easily overcame Kwara United of Nigeria, hammering four goals in the second leg in Cairo, including two from Abdel Halim Ali.

They now meet Etoile Sahel, who had to overcome some stubborn resistance from Sfaxien before going through.

Sahel won the first leg 2-1 in Sfax and led three times at home in the return, only to see Imed Ben Younes equalise on each occasion. But in the end two goals from Brazilian import Silva dos Santos and another from international Imed Mhadhebi were enough for an aggregate triumph in a match during which both sides had a player sent off.

It was even closer in Algiers, where Wydad Casablanca sneaked past USMA thanks to a last-minute aggregate equaliser from Redouane Al-Allai. Wydad had a 1-0 lead going into the return leg, but the Algerians took the lead in a stormy game, with goals from Othman Amirat and a penalty by veteran Hadj Adlane, before the last-gasp escape for the Moroccans.

They now play Canon Yaounde, who overcame Burkina Faso's Etoile Filante 2-1 on aggregate.

Mark Gleeson

AFRICAN CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Raja and Esperance setting hot pace

WE ARE only halfway through this year's African Champions League campaign but already the identity of the two finalists looks clear.

Both Esperance of Tunisia and 1997 winners Raja Casablanca of Morocco hold 100 per cent records after three matches in their respective groups, both lead by three points, and both seem to have the more difficult fixtures behind them.

Raja surprised almost everyone by beating pre-tournament favourites Al Ahly in Cairo, taking advantage of Hicham Hanafi's dismissal to score in the final minute through Mohamed Khoubbache.

All three of Raja's games have been won 1-0 but have not been as laboured as the scores might suggest. Their main rivals, Al Ahly, look out of it after a second defeat by another last-minute goal, when Ishmael Addo gave Ghana's Hearts of Oak a 2-1 win in Accra.

Esperance have been the form team as they seek to emulate their success of 1994, scoring 10 goals without reply and leading from defending champions ASEC Abidjan of the Ivory Coast. Their latest triumph was a 5-0 thrashing of Reunion's Saint-Louisienne in Tunis.

ASEC recovered from losing their opening game in Tunis to record home wins over Dynamos of Zimbabwe and Saint-Louisienne. They can derail Esperance at home but would still need to win in Harare and Reunion and that might be beyond them.

Last year's runners-up, Dynamos, have been plagued by internal turmoil, a desperate start to their domestic League and the abrupt departure of mentor Sunday Marimo.

Mark Gleeson

Indomitable cubs...Cameroon celebrate their All-Africa triumph

ALL-AFRICA GAMES

Cameroon land a golden double

CAMEROON became only the second country to win two soccer gold medals at the All-Africa Games when they took the title in Johannesburg, beating Zambia 4-3 on penalties after a goalless draw.

Their previous success was at the 1991 Games in Cairo, the first held at Under-23 level after the event was downgraded from 'A' international status.

Only Egypt (1987 in Nairobi and 1995 in Tunisia) had won the gold twice before, but they did not qualify for this year's event.

Cameroon deserved to win this exhausting tournament, having conceded only one goal in five games and played with maturity.

Mali were expected to be the team to watch, particularly since they had almost the same side that did well at the World Under-20 championship in Nigeria earlier in the year. But they were given a shock in their first game, against Uganda, and never recovered.

Cameroon finished top of Group B and then had to expend little effort when beating Uganda in the semi-finals. Zambia, who finished runners-up in Cameroon's group, upset South Africa in the other semi when Bernard Makufi scored the only goal in extra time. The Final was a tense affair and both sides were weary long before they got to extra time and the penalty shoot-out.

South Africa took bronze after a 2-0 win over Uganda.

Mark Gleeson

Pro-file Bonaventure Kalou

Feyenoord man following Weah's example

LANKY Bonaventure Kalou should be a familiar figure after this season's UEFA Champions League campaign. At 21 he already is an established presence in the Feyenoord team, a Dutch championship winner and now a regular international for Ivory Coast.

Kalou has taken some adjusting to the rigours of a disciplined Dutch tactical system, but has a level head that suggests much success to come.

Coach Leo Beenhakker believes he is a genuine talent with much potential, but also a rough diamond that still needs some polishing.

"Kalou has the problem that a lot of Africans suffer from – they play excellently for themselves but still have to learn to play for the team," says Beenhakker. "That is a long process, not something you can change in one day.

"But if I look at Kalou now, compared to half a year ago, then he has learnt a lot. He's just 21 and we have to try to make something of him, because with his skill he can win games for us."

There was a useful contribution from Kalou last season as Feyenoord won the League, although he scored only three times in 28 games, and he has passed that total already this season.

He was 17 when he made his debut for hometown club Oume in the Ivorian League, and soon afterwards he left to join ASEC Abidjan, the reigning African champions.

From there he moved to Holland and Feyenoord for the 1997-98 season, where as a teenager he had a more-than-average 12 appearances in the first team.

"It was a dream for me to play in Europe," says Kalou. "Now I'm here and I've got to do all I can to succeed. George Weah is my motivation. He went to France for trials as an unknown, and look where he is today."

Kalou made his debut for his country last year, soon after his 20th birthday, and was in the squad for the 1998 African Nations Cup finals in Burkina Faso.

He certainly will be in Ghana and Nigeria early next year for the 2000 edition of the African Championship, hoping to help the Ivorians in what is a tough draw.

"My first target is just to keep a regular place in the first team with Feyenoord and to make a name for myself," he says. "Then I want to become one of the best African footballers ever."

Mark Gleeson

Fact file

Club Feyenoord (Hol)
Country Ivory Coast
Born January 12, 1978
Previous clubs Oume, ASEC Abidjan
International debut February 1998, v Cameroon
International caps 7
Honours Ivorian League 1997; Ivorian Cup 1997; Dutch League 1999

Diplomacy finishes first

The World Cup boycott is over. Azam Mahmood reports

AFTER months of brinkmanship. the Asian Football Confederation finally dropped demands for a fifth place to be made available to an Asian country at the 2002 World Cup finals.

Accordingly, the threatened boycott of the event, to be held jointly by Japan and South Korea, has been called of and the organisers can go ahead with their plans in the hope that they can make up for lost time.

The AFC were strongly represented at a meeting with FIFA in Zurich, which ended with the issuing of a joint statement saying that proposals for the constitution of the event had been accepted after all.

Asian countries had insisted on five automatic places instead of four, but they have now agreed to accept, in effect, four and a half. The hosts will take two of the berths, another two will go to automatic qualifiers, with the other place to be decided by a play-off between a fifth Asian team and one from Europe.

AFC president Sultan Ahmad Shah said: "We are very happy to have been able to resolve the differences. Now we can move forward together for the good of the game, devoting our full attention to the success of the World Cup."

Park Jin-baie of the Korean organising committee said: "We are happy that Asian countries will not now boycott the event. Our plans are now fully devoted to the tournament in 2002."

And FIFA president Sepp Blatter said: "Unity has been restored. Unity must remain our priority in the future."

The first move made by the AFC after the decision was the cancellation of an extra session, arranged for Kuala Lumpur on October 10, that had been called to settle which teams would enter and which would not.

Now that the fifth-place demand has been dropped, eligibility will be decided later – on the pitch, not in the committee room.

The demand for places in the World Cup always exceeds the number available, and there is considerable politicking between the various off-field powers – in particular Europe, South America and Africa, and, in more recent times, Asia.

INDIA

Air India flying high again

A 0-0 DRAW in the last match was sufficient for Air India to take the Western IFA Super Division title for the fifth time in 10 years.

They needed only a point from their visit to second-placed Mahindras, and duly got it with a solid defensive display at a packed Cooperage stadium in Mumbai.

Air India finished with 28 points, with Mahindras on 26 and Mumbai FC on 22.

The All-Airlines Gold Cup was won by Mohammedan Sporting Club of Bangladesh, who beat East Bengal 3-2 on penalties in the Final, in Haldia, after a 1-1 draw.

Ghanaian winger Suley Mdosa scored from a penalty to enable East Bengal to retain the Calcutta Super Division title, by beating Mohammedan Sporting 1-0 in the last match of the Super Five round.

Shimizu in charge

JAPAN

SHIMIZU S-Pulse led the way as the J.League went into a five-week recess to allow the Under-22 team to focus on the final round of Olympic qualifiers against Thailand and Kazakhstan. That's an indicator of how important the Olympics are in this part of the world.

S-Pulse are looking increasingly in command with a three-point advantage over Yokohama F Marinos and five matches left. They lost their opening game of the 15-match second stage to Cerezo, won the next four, lost to Gamba Osaka, and have now again won four on the trot.

"It's a shame," says coach Steve Perryman, "to have to break off from the J.League just as we are playing with such confidence. I have always said that the team that gets four wins out of five will be champions. We've done it twice now, the difficult way, because we lost the first game of each five. Now we must do it once more."

Many of the S-Pulse team are playing for Japan this year, thanks in a large part to the consistent work of Ossie Ardiles and his coach, now manager, Perryman, over the past few seasons.

S-Pulse play a steady, sensible game, are firm in defence and shoot not on sight but only when a goal seems likely.

"We just have to keep control," says Perryman, about his team's title chances. "If we lose, no panic. If we win, no panic. We just have to keep doing the same things."

The statistics bear out the approach. S-Pulse have the best defensive record in the second stage (nine goals conceded in 10 games), the lowest shooting rate of any team in the League, and the highest scoring rate from shots (roughly 20 per cent).

They will not be entirely idle during the break because they have two matches with Shanghai in the Asian Cup-winners Cup to help them maintain their fitness. An exciting finish is then in store for the second stage. S-Pulse's last two games are against Yokohama F Marinos, currently second, and Kashiwa Reysol, now third.

The resurgence of Shimizu S-Pulse has been one of the J.League's brightest stories of recent years. They were the only founder members established especially for the J.League, instead of being based on a former company club.

The city was chosen because of its strong grass-roots influence in the game, with several national championships at school level. Shimizu's schools have produced such national team stars as Kazu Miura, Hiroshi Nanami, Yoshikatsu Kawaguchi and Shinji Ono.

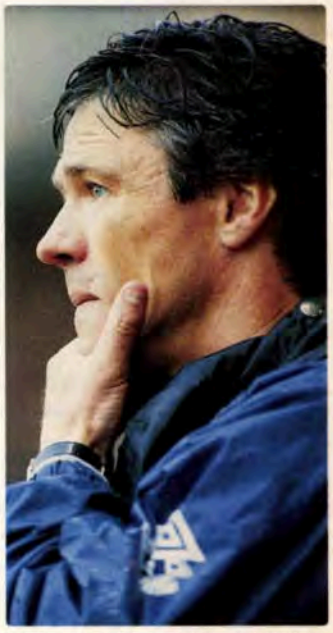
The club started in a blaze of publicity under the stern management of former Brazil goalkeeper Leao, finishing runners-up in the inaugural League Cup in 1992 (the year before the League began), the 1993 League Cup, the 1993 second stage and the 1994 first stage. The label of perpetual runners-up was beginning to hurt when Leao resigned in June 1994, and his successors, the equally famous Rivelino and later Masakatsu Miyamoto, never managed to match those achievements.

The last big player to be signed was Daniele Massaro in the summer of 1995. Ossie Ardiles took over the hot seat in 1996 together with Perryman, and they finally broke S-Pulse's duck that year by leading them to victory in the League Cup. The money, however, was running out fast.

The original management company effectively folded and a new one had to be set up. Ardiles and Perryman soldiered on, however, and remarkably, as the purse strings grew tighter, the results improved at every level.

Ardiles led S-Pulse back to runners-up position in the 1998 first stage and it is high time for Perryman to win the League title that he and the team deserve.

"Consistently," says Perryman, "this is a good football team. We just have to keep on doing the same things. Because of the build-up of three years, we believe we deserve to be here. It will take a very good team to get above us."



Well worth first place...Perryman

The reserve team manager is Perryman's old friend and colleague Phil Holder – they joined Tottenham in the same week. Holder joined S-Pulse last year after coaching at Crystal Palace, Brentford (with Perryman), Southend and Reading.

As for the Olympic team, they set out for the final qualifiers on the back of two confidence-boosting friendly wins against South Korea, 4-1 in Tokyo and 1-0 in Seoul.

Mike Plastow & Michi Ishijima

Nigerian striker Chima Okerie, who plays for Calcutta's Mohun Bagan, has appealed after being suspended for 225 days and fined £4,200 for using violent conduct towards a referee.

Mohun Bagan reached the second round of the Asian Club Championship by eliminating Sangshad of Bangladesh over two legs – a 2-1 win in Calcutta and a 1-1 draw in the return.

The Indian FA has had to postpone its Charity Shield tournament until November since clubs have been unable to agree on dates because of clashes with the South Asian Federation Games, to be held in Nepal.

G C Das & Bhasi Malaparamba

ROUND-UP

Buses feel the brunt

HUNDREDS of buses were damaged in Tehran when supporters went on the rampage after a highly-charged derby game between Esteghlal and Pirouzi ended 0-0.

More than 100,000 fans went to the match and police forced the crowd to disperse after a number of fights broke out.

A **JAPAN** selection won the 12-nation Bangabandhu Cup in Bangladesh with a 3-2 golden goal victory over the Ghana Olympic side. Takashi Takahashi scored the winner 10 minutes into sudden death extra time.

In the round-robin phase of the **MALAYSIA** Cup, Brunei and Perilis topped the Group A table with 11 points apiece, while Kelantan and Kedah finished third and fourth respectively.

In Group B, still unfinished, Terengganu, Perak and Melaka have nine points each, while Johor are bottom with three.

In **SINGAPORE**, Home United led Armed Forces Club by three points after 15 rounds.

KUWAIT international striker Jassem Al-Howaidi has joined Saudi club Al-Hilal from Al-Salimaya, for £350,000.

In **THAILAND**, Port Authority have a formidable lead of seven points over Thai Air Force, with 28 points from 12 matches.

In **SOUTH KOREA**, Suwon Bluewings won the Adidas Cup with a 2-0 defeat of Anyang in the Final. They also head the League standings by eight points.

Azam Mahmood & Mohamed Chbaro

Champions of Oceania...South Melbourne celebrate

Lakesiders rule Oceania waves

AS EXPECTED, Australia's Ericsson Cup holders, South Melbourne, proved too powerful for their Oceania counterparts and became the region's inaugural Champions Cup winners. In the Final, the Lakesiders defeated Nadi 5-1 on the Fijian champions' home ground. Fausto De Amicis, Dave Clarkson, Michael Curjica, Vaughan Coveny and Steve Panopoulos scored for the Australians, while Raimondo Dutt netted for the hosts.

Only once during the entire tournament did South Melbourne come under pressure. In their first game they needed two goals in the last five minutes to overcome Malaita Eagles of the Solomon Islands 2-1.

They will now represent Oceania at January's World Club Championship.

Paul Moon

NEW ZEALAND

AFTER knocking on the door for several seasons, Dunedin Technical claimed their first major trophy in a 79-year history when hammering Waitakere City 4-0 in the Chatham Cup Final. Graham Marshall, Jason Tee, Justin Flaws and Aaron Burgess scored.

Technical's hopes of completing the double had been ruined two weeks earlier by Central United, who defeated them 3-1 in the Club Championship Final.

Jeremy Seales put Technical one up in the game's first attack, and though United had most of the possession, they had to wait until 10 minutes from the end of normal time before Mark Elrick equalised. Two minutes later, Technical defender Nick Longley was sent off for a brutal tackle and that effectively ended their challenge, with Elrick scoring twice more in extra time.

AUSTRALIA

MELBOURNE'S Carlton Blues were the most active club, both on and off the pitch, in the run-up to the 1999-2000 Ericsson Cup campaign. They have appointed a new coach, Stuart Munro (ex-Rangers), completed a three-match tour of China, and recruited six new players.

Carlton's recent recruits include three British players: Stuart Slater (ex-West Ham), Dave McPherson (Hearts and Rangers) and Mick Conroy (Fulham).

Adelaide Sharks, champions at the end of Australia's second national league season (back in 1978, when known as West Adelaide Hellas), have been liquidated with huge debts. This reduces the Ericsson Cup to 16 teams.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

THE LAE provincial selection found themselves in the unusual position of losing the Final of the PNGHA Cup yet being presented with the trophy.

Lae's conquerors, the national Under-23 combination, featured in the tournament only to gain experience before their forthcoming Olympic qualifying campaign, and were not official participants.

Paul Moon

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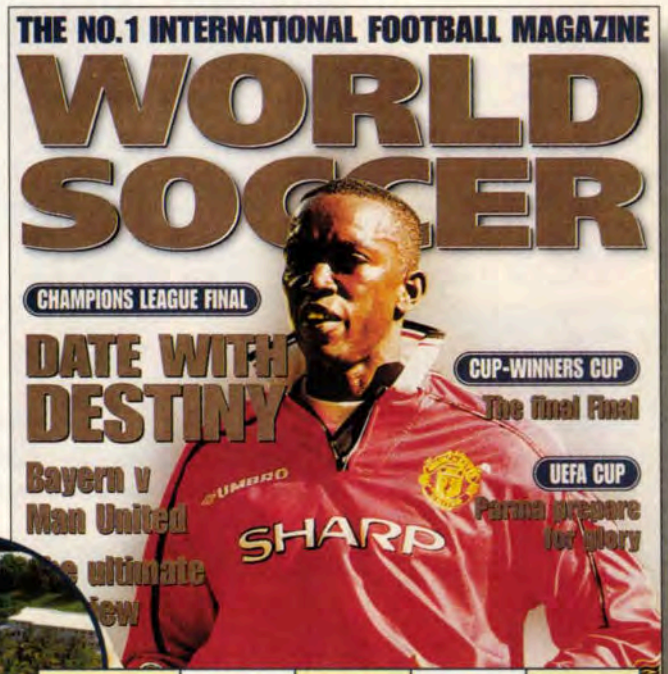

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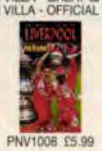

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Brian Glanville's LAST WORD

'Returning to Sweden from Italy, Skoglund's life fell to pieces...but I shall never forget the bright image of him that winter day in Highbury'

Memories of a Swedish star

WHEN AIK visited Wembley in September to play Arsenal in the Champions League, my mind went back 50 years to the afternoon they last played in London. Fresh – or more precisely, tired – from a gruelling world tour, they were thrashed 8-0; yet the best player on the field was their flaxen-haired 19-year-old inside-left, Lennart 'Nacka' Skoglund.

His ball control, his clever passing, his delightful, sporting approach to the game, were riveting. And what a star he was destined to become, even if his life would end so disastrously.

George Raynor, Sweden's manager then, at the 1950 World Cup, and at the Swedish World Cup eight years later, was also in charge of AIK at the time. He quickly chose Skoglund for the national team, and the Swedes won in Dublin on their way to Brazil. There, I remember Raynor telling me, Skoglund and another inside-forward, Kalle Palmer, later a leading journalist, indulged themselves by performing virtuoso combinations in a friendly game. Raynor told them off; a World Cup was no place for such excesses.

In the event, Sweden got to the final pool, where they acquitted themselves well against Spain and Uruguay but were steamrollered by Brazil, 7-1.

For Skoglund, however, this World Cup was the passport to wealth and fame in Italy. He was bought by Inter and transformed into an elusive, clever, effective outside-left, who helped the club to win trophies.

In 1958, when the Swedes, World Cup hosts, at last allowed their expatriate professionals to play for the national team again, he was on the left wing in the team who, under Raynor, surged into the Final.

That rainy day in Stockholm, alas, Skoglund was played out of the match by the massive Djalma Santos, whose first game in the finals this was.

In a previous game against Hungary at Rasunda, he had been involved in a fracas with an opponent. Raynor said he would be having a word with him. "We want no circus men in our team!" Alas, returning to Sweden after the end of his career in Italy, his life fell to pieces, he drank more and more heavily, and he died while still in early middle age.

But I shall never forget the bright image of him that winter day in Highbury.

Remembering Nacka...Skoglund (right) in action for Sweden at the 1958 World Cup

No excuse for ignorance

THE LATE Alan Clark MP was quoted, soon after his death, as having professed his "fierce pride" on hearing that at Heysel Stadium, in May 1985, 38 (later 39) Italians had died, as opposed to only a couple of Englishmen.

Repugnant sentiments, for which the only pale excuse must be that Clark knew nothing of the actual circumstances and the nature of the victims.

For these, of course, were not ordinary Juventus fans, who, congregated on the opposite terraces, with many hooligans among them, surely would not have been put to flight so easily. The Italian supporters on those Liverpool terraces should not in fact have been there at all, any more than the rickety old stadium should have been allowed by slovenly UEFA to be used as the venue for a Euro final.

What happened, and predictably so – authorities to blame again – was that tickets for those terraces went on sale not only in Liverpool but in Belgium, where inevitably they fell into the hands of Italian immigrant workers; to be sent back in numerous cases to the peninsula.

So the Italians on that terrace, where the police, had they any guts, could have quelled the trouble in the quarter hour between the first eruption and the fatal second, were largely peaceful: families, women, children. Totally unprepared and unequipped to resist the brutal rush that led to their death.

The political columnist Bruce Andersen, in recalling Clark's words in a weekly magazine, implicitly endorsed them by saying that in bellicose times things like those Liverpudlians could be of value. That seems abominable.

Clark, when he spoke, may well not have known the true situation. Fourteen years later, there is no such excuse for ignorance.

Watching from the sidelines...Vialli

Vialli: too soon to quit

DID Gianluca Vialli hang up his boots too early? Chelsea's early-season impotence in front of goal, all too evident in matches against Newcastle, Milan, Watford and Hertha Berlin, suggests that he did.

The loss of Gigi Casiraghi, poor fellow, was unquestionably costly. But Tore Andre Flo, for all his talents, is an erratic finisher, and Chris Sutton, at least in those earlier weeks, seemed anything but a bargain at £10million.

One coach who knows him well over the years remarked to me that £5m might have been nearer the mark.

Vialli may indeed have found it hard to be both a manager and a player as he was last season. He may inevitably have lost pace. He is in his middle thirties. But as he showed on occasion last season, especially in League Cup matches, his superlative finishing gifts remained; and surely remain.

Some of the numerous chances created against Milan at Stamford Bridge and in Berlin the following week, notably by the undoubtedly coruscating little Gianfranco Zola, would have been put away by Vialli.

Wrong again, Aigner

WHAT does get into the heads of our chief administrators? Sepp (51 bad ideas a day) Blatter at least came up with an amusing one when in his humourless way he decided to send a brick to every FIFA delegate.

It is tempting to suggest they represented all the bricks that he has dropped, or, alternatively, that were to be thrown in protest at FIFA House, preferably when he is there. But now the pinnacles of power seem to have frozen Gerhard Aigner's brains.

At the very moment when the so-called Champions League, which is not a league for champions at all, has so plainly swamped the European calendar, up pops UEFA general secretary Aigner with the lunatic idea that another European international tournament for countries should be instituted.

His logic, if that be the word, is that because countries are now eschewing friendly games as a waste of time, something needs to be put in their place. It does, and that Herr Aigner is masterly inactivity.

The increasing predominance of the clubs, of which he complains, is massively thanks to UEFA's own cringing sell-out to the big battalions, expanding, bloating and devaluing the once fascinating European Cup.

I have long regretted the decline of the friendly international, which produced such classics as England 4 Austria 3 at Chelsea in 1932 and England 3 Hungary 6 at Wembley in 1953. But the European Championship itself has had a massive amount to do with that.

I remember that when it was initiated even the Great Competitor himself, Vittorio Pozzo, winner of two World Cups for Italy, deplored the fact that everything now had to be transformed into a tournament. I still think England were right to snub the first European Nations Cup of 1958-1960.

But we'll never get rid of it now, the friendly international has declined in consequence and another competition is, in prospect, a monstrosity.

Kelly wobbles into print

KELLY THE JELLY wobbles again. This time in print; he has brought out, bravely if not recklessly, an autobiography, uncomfortably close to his ignominious end as chief executive of the Football Association. He was obliged to quit after the latest in a long series of misjudgements, when he was so unwise as to support the ineffable Keith Wiseman in the payment of a sweetener to the Welsh FA in return for their backing Wiseman for a place on the FIFA executive at the expense of another better qualified Briton, David Will.

To the deep and proper displeasure of my learned friend, Edward Grayson, distinguished author of *Sport And The Law*, Kelly shows no regrets for his gratuitous and deplorable intervention in the Uzzell v Blissett case of the multiple elbows.

John Uzzell, playing for Torquay, had his career prematurely ended when Gary Blissett of Brentford slammed an elbow into his face. At Blissett's trial, who should turn up to speak for him but...Kelly.

Grayson greatly doubts that Kelly had any right to give evidence at all, and is amazed that the prosecution did not have him literally ruled out of court. But give evidence he dismally did, insisting that he saw 50 such incidents in some four matches a week. Blissett got off.

Kelly's collusion with the top clubs to form the FA Premier League at the expense of the Football League which he had served so long still seems to me a betrayal of the Football Association's *raison d'être*.

Less important but still lamentable was his support of Charlie 'Long Ball' Hughes when Peter Mendham of Norwich quite properly complained that he had been unfairly treated on an FA coaching course. His marks had been quite good enough to gain him his senior badge, but his very proper disdain for Hughes's ridiculous long ball orthodoxy had led to his being rejected.

When, on *The People*, I took up the case, it was to be assured by Kelly that he had found nothing amiss with what had gone on.

Feeble rather than dislikeable, misguided rather than malign, Kelly was a disastrous main man. But behind him, he has left a vacuum.

Ineffective figure...Graham Kelly

From the archives...

November 1992

ONLY seven years have passed since this edition of *World Soccer* appeared, but football has changed so much that the issue's content seems a world away.

In those days we used to run a page and a half of television programme listings, something we had to abandon when the TV giant grew beyond anybody's wildest dreams.

And while FIFA was still, as now, cooking up forgettable international tournaments, the Intercontinental Cup for the King Fahd Trophy involved just four teams playing a total of four matches. Argentina, who qualified as Copa America winners, beat hosts Saudi Arabia (Asian Cup winners) 3-1 in the Final. But tellingly, Denmark (European champions) were unable to attend because of World Cup qualifying commitments.

The cover featured Scotland and Rangers forward Ally McCoist, still in action for Kilmarnock, and Franco Baresi, who had just announced his retirement from international football. He later changed his mind, and nearly two years on played for Italy and lost in the 1994 World Cup Final.

Inside, Colin Wood, in a two-page feature on Liverpool, referred with masterly understatement to "signings who cost millions and have not been successful"; there was a long feature on Dennis Bergkamp entitled 'Mr Modesty'; and an interview with Bobby Robson, now in charge at Newcastle, then boss of Sporting and about to experience his first Lisbon derby against Benfica.

One of Robson's charges from his time as England manager, Paul Gascoigne, merited mention in two separate columns. Brian Glanville's thoughts were matter-of-factly subtitled 'Gascoigne's not always a good boy', while Keir Radnedge took a more benevolent view of the Geordie's antics. He referred to a recent friendly between Gazza's new club, Lazio, and his former club, Tottenham, after which Gazza pulled down his captain Claudio Sclosa's shorts. Keir wrote: "Sounds mad. Sounds childish. Sounds unprofessional. Yes, yes, yes. But the fans went away with a smile on their face. And isn't that what football needs?"

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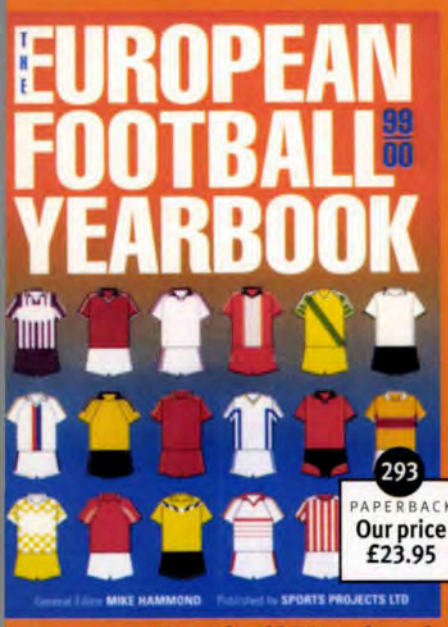

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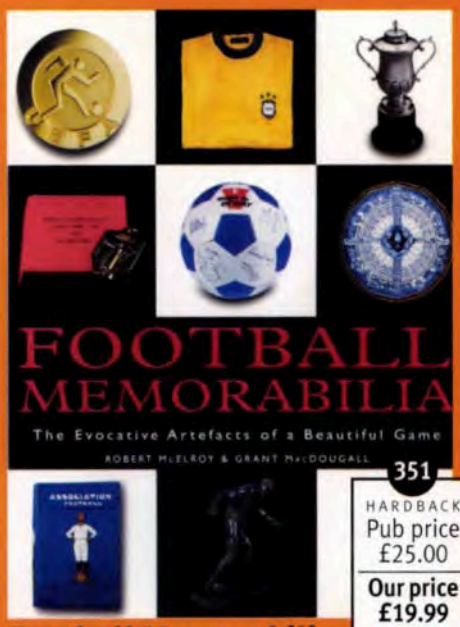

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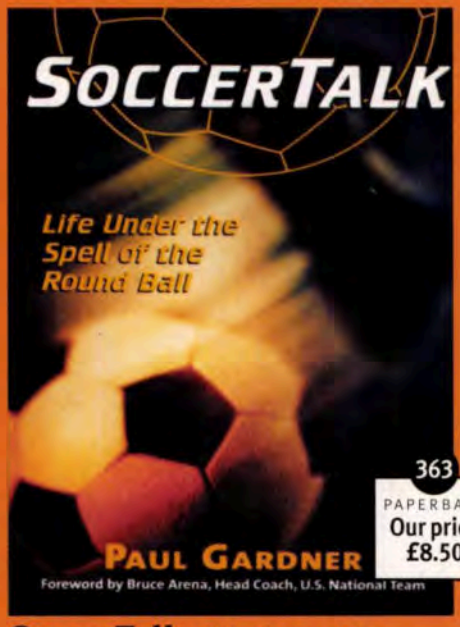

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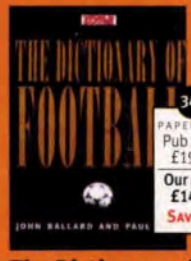

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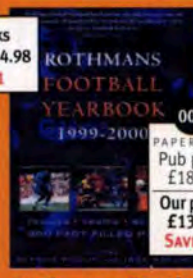

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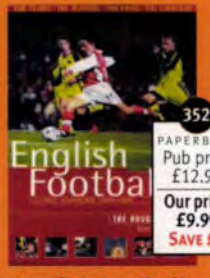

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